WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
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"She keeps her faith; and nothing of her name
Or of her handiwork but doth proclaim
Her purpose. Her own soul hath made her free,
Not circumstance; she knows no victory
Save of the mind; in her is nothing done—
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But is the cause of all.

—LAWRENCE BINYON.

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Notes and Comments.

The National Union of Teachers and Women's Suffrage.

We trust that the question of Women's Suffrage will not be shelved by the N.U.T. at their Lowestoft Conference this year. We are informed that many members have on previous occasions voted rather on the point that political questions should not be discussed, than on the merits of the case for Women's Suffrage. Such an attitude is surely not consistent in view of the fact that the Board of Education so largely controls the destinies of teachers. It issues codes, regulates the size of classes, appoints inspectors in the proportion of about four men to one woman, the men being much more highly paid, and given a much better position. Moreover, the N.U.T. actually earmarks £6,000 per annum for purposes of Parliamentary representation, and has spent Union money on a law-suit to establish the right to vote of men living in school-houses. In other words, N.U.T. money may be spent on getting votes for men, but no one must even talk about votes for women! Yet they pay their subscriptions, we understand, equally with their male colleagues.

Militancy—Male and Female.

Men, while expressing continual detestation of militant Suffragists, are now appealing to women to sign "the British Covenant," which commits the signatories to the doctrine that *any effective action* is justifiable on the part of Unionists against Home Rule. We publish on another page Lady Selborne's reply to this request.

An Irreparable Loss.

It is reported that Miss Richards, when taken into custody for damaging the "Rokeby Venus," said that the nation "could get another picture, but not another Mrs. Pankhurst." Perhaps—if Miss Richards will tell us where to get another Velasquez. So far they seem at least as difficult to breed. We hardly know whether the case for this campaign of revenge is made better or worse by the ignorance of the destroyers of the value (not to be measured in money) of that which they destroy; since it is, after all, not even the destruction—bad as it is—that is the real tragedy. It is the spirit of revenge which has so poisoned the minds of a few of the supporters of the noblest and purest of all causes.

Women's Political Associations.

The Liberal Women's Suffrage Union held its inaugural meeting at our time of going to press last week. We publish a report elsewhere. An impression seems to exist in some people's minds that the National Union discourages its members from joining or remaining in other political associations. This is not the case. It is true that Suffragists have in many cases felt themselves bound in honour to resign such membership, but this has been when circumstances have made loyalty to both associations—the Suffrage one and the party one—impossible. On the other hand, where such circumstances do not arise, valuable work has been done by Suffragists who have also been members of party organisations. The case is clearly one which can only be decided by the individual, on its own merits.

A Conspiracy of Silence.

Perhaps the easiest test by which one may know whether any cause is a winning or a losing one, is to be found in the willingness of its supporters to face discussion. We notice that refusal *always* comes from Anti-suffragists; rarely, indeed, from those on the Suffrage side. In the recent case of the Anglican Church Congress, for example, Suffragists were deeply grateful to the Bishop of Winchester, not for taking a side, but simply for allowing discussion; Anti-suffragists were correspondingly enraged. The mere fact that he did allow discussion was taken (and might well be taken) as proof that he was a Suffragist! His consent has been labelled "an attempt to capture the Church Congress." Would it be possible to imagine a stronger proof of the justice of our cause than the admission that to allow it to be discussed in any assembly is equal to the "capture" of that assembly, and willingness to face discussion a proof of Suffrage opinions!

"As Many Lies as Will Lie in a Sheet of Paper."

In pursuance of the belief that discussion is fatal to their cause, Anti-suffragists have addressed a manifesto to the ministers of the Free Churches, imploring them on no account to allow the Suffrage question to be discussed by "purely religious bodies." This document, with an audacity which commands admiration, proceeds to state (1) that Suffragists have "split" the National Union of Women Workers. What has, in fact, happened is that 227 members have left, out of 7,472; one branch out of forty-eight (two new ones have been formed since); and one affiliated society out of 159. The split seems rather like a shaving. (2) That the Free Church Council "like all religions owes its unity to concentration upon non-contentious objects"—such for example, as education, and temperance, and disestablishment? What *does* the Free Church Council discuss, one wonders? We observe that the Anglican Congress only discussed the Women's Movement "at the cost of much publicly expressed resentment." Why should discussion be resented? That is a question which really requires an answer.

Outrageous Sentences.

Many people have written to ask what—if anything—can be done in the matter of the Fulham case, commented on in these columns a fortnight ago. Apparently nothing can be done. The Home Secretary has stated in the House of Commons that he has no power to alter sentences, "however obviously inadequate." He added that he knew of no extenuating circumstances whatever to account for the sentence of three months in the second division, for so horrible an offence. Our readers will remember that the man was convicted of having violated his little step-daughter (aged thirteen) who will shortly become a mother. We constantly receive reports of very bad cases, but do not publish them unless we have first-hand information, as the reports given in newspapers are constantly found to be incorrect in important particulars. We have, however, received one this week which illustrates the extraordinarily unjust administration of the law as applied by men to women.

A man assaulted a young woman—a domestic servant—twice. He pleaded guilty to the offence, and his counsel suggested that "a fine would meet the case, because sending —— to prison would be very serious for him, *his wife and family*, and his business." The girl assaulted apparently took the same view, and the magistrates (in imposing a fine) said "the wife and family had been considered."

We can hardly imagine a more disastrous kind of chivalry. In order to protect (?) one woman, the whole public standard with regard to these offences is lowered, and the safety of all women lessened.

Another Case.

Another man was charged on March 6th at the Sussex Winter Assizes with theft and forgery. The Judge said to the prisoner: "I have read what you say about your wife, and I am very sorry for her; but you know people have to take these matters into consideration when they commit an offence of this kind." Doubtless, since the sentence was three years' penal servitude for "an offence of this kind." For an offence of the other kind—a fine of £10.

The Case of Julia Decies.

Julia Decies has been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for the attempted murder of her lover, under circumstances of extreme provocation. The *Daily Citizen* publishes a letter containing a report of a man whose wife died in hospital as a result of a brutal assault by him, and "in consideration of the great provocation he had received," got six months. It becomes increasingly evident that women must be given a share in the administration of the law as well as in legislation, if it is not to be brought into utter contempt by its extraordinary laxities and equally extraordinary severities. The uncertainty of its operation creates the most demoralising sense of uncertainty and injustice.

The Man Pays?

Another preposterous case tells against the husband (who, however, will probably not have to pay any penalty). In *Poole v. Stokes*, a man was found guilty of "neglect," because, having separated from his wife and paid her a sufficient allowance for the support of their children, she has neglected them! Legally, the "neglect" is his, and he is responsible, although he had nothing to do with the matter. Could anything be more utterly ridiculous? Of course, if men insist on being "the sole legal parent" of their children, and possessor of their wives, these absurdities must arise. But to women, the doctrine that women who are wives are no longer responsible for their own acts seems no privilege, but a peculiarly offensive insult.

In Parliament.

March 4th.

Affiliation Orders Bill.

Captain Jessel introduced a Bill to provide that when an Affiliation Order is made the money shall be paid by the father through the agency of an officer appointed by the Court. As under the present law a considerable amount of time lapses between the service of a summons and the hearing, during which time the putative father often gets away and evades service altogether, a proviso is also made in the Bill to check such evasion.

In support of his proposals Captain Jessel quoted from a pamphlet entitled "Filius Nullius," by Mr. King, M.P. :—

"As a matter of fact only one such woman in four makes application and one in five gets an order granted. Of the 8,499 applications made in 1911 by mothers, who tried through Magistrates' Courts to obtain regular payments from the fathers of their children, only 6,847 succeeded in getting orders made. This means that of these children not one quarter are supported by their fathers through the operation of legal orders."

Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill.

Lord Robert Cecil, speaking in criticism of Clause 2 of the above Bill, which provides that the parent of a defective child may be compelled to send him to a certified school, protested against the tendency of the official mind to deny any rights whatever to the unfortunate parent. He pointed out also that many gross illegalities are committed by those who administer the law, without any redress whatever to the parents concerned. To illustrate the kind of thing that occurred, he told the following story :—

"There were the mother and baby, and a girl of about twelve years of age. The mother in this matter said : 'I have got to do the washing, and I must have my girl at home to look after the baby. If I keep the girl at home, I receive a notice from the attendance officer saying that I have no right to keep my child from school. If I send her to school and do the washing and the baby falls into the fire, I am prosecuted for manslaughter. If I look after the baby and neglect the washing, I am prosecuted by the authorities who look after the public health. Whatever I do, I am bound to be prosecuted.'

"As I read the law, in respect of such cases, the mother whom I have quoted would, under the circumstances, be perfectly entitled to keep her girl at home to look after the baby. The authorities can only prosecute her if she keeps the child at home without reasonable excuse. I have not personaliy the slightest doubt, after looking up the cases, that an ordinary court would, under all the circumstances, consider the excuse a perfectly reasonable excuse. But a woman of the kind I have mentioned, and the ordinary woman of that class—how can she go and argue with an attendance officer before a court? The thing is absurd. She has no money to engage a solicitor. She cannot send anybody to argue her case. Even if she manages to argue it herself, and successfully, she is fined through the loss of time, and put not only to inconvenience but, perhaps, to serious loss merely by having to attend the court. It is the grossest oppression. These are the Acts which we pass daily, and with the best of motives.

* * * * * * * * * *

"If it were attempted to pass such a Bill for those who belong to the richer classes of the country there would be an armed revolt directly. They would not submit to it for a moment. It is only the very poor that you can oppress in this way, and it is only because they have nobody here to plead their cause.'

Other speakers also objected to compulsion in the case of parents who honestly wished to do the best for the child. The Bill was read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

March 9th.

Importation of Plumage Prohibition Bill.

Mr. Hobhouse, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, said it was designed to protect birds whose plumage was coveted on account of its beauty, and whose numbers were in danger of being reduced to vanishing point :—

"There are five or six sales conducted in the City of London, in the course of the year, and the following figures of plumage at these sales would give some idea of the extent of the slaughter :

December, 1912.—Ospreys, 75,000.
June, 1913.—Ospreys, 77,000.
June, 1913.—Humming birds, 25,000.
June, 1913.—Kingfishers, 162,000.

These figures show that the contention of the trade that the destruction of bird-life is not widespread is an idle contention."

The Government, he continued, had invited the attendance of representatives of the Colonies and of foreign countries to a conference in London, based on the conditions that every country represented should come to it on the express understanding that it should prohibit entry into that country of the skins and plumage of wild birds, and undertake to legislate for the prohibition of exports. He hoped the conference would be held at once. Greece, Denmark, and France were the only European countries which had refused to attend. Germany had not yet replied.

Mr. T. Healy : Why is France so strongly opposed?

Mr. Hobhouse said there were 50,000 persons employed in France making up feathers, and the French Government was apparently afraid to face their opposition. He hoped the House, without distinction of party, would express its determination to have done with a foul trade.

After some criticism the second reading was carried by 297 votes to 15.

Tuesday, March 10th.

New Bills.

Mr. Herbert Samuel.—Bill to extend the qualifications for membership of county and borough councils.

Lord Robert Cecil.—Bill to amend the law with regard to the qualification of members of the county, borough, district and parish councils and boards of guardians in England and Wales.

"Rokeby Venus."

Asked whether he would consider the extension of the Malicious Injuries (Ireland) Act to Great Britain, in view of the outrage committed on the "Rokeby Venus," the Prime Minister answered in the negative.

Political Notes.

The Labour Party's Franchise Bill.

On Friday, March 20th, Mr. Arthur Henderson will move the Second Reading of the Labour Party's Franchise Bill, which provides for :—

(1) The enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men, on the basis of adult manhood and womanhood, with one month's residential qualification; (2) the eligibility of women for Parliament on the same terms as men; (3) the abolition of Plural Voting; (4) the issue of all writs for a General Election on the same day, polling for Boroughs to take place on one day and for Counties on another; (5) the adoption of the Alternative Vote, so as to avoid minority representation in three-cornered contests.

An opportunity will be provided by the Division on this Bill for Liberals to prove the sincerity of their oft-professed support for Adult Suffrage, especially those Liberals who voted against the Stanger, Conciliation, or Dickinson Bills because they were "not wide enough." The principle of sex-equality for voting purposes is admitted by the majority in the Liberal and Irish Parties, by the whole of the Labour Party, and by a section of the Conservative Party. The Government Franchise Bill of 1912 would have established adult age and a short residential qualification as the basis for the franchise, and would have abolished plural voting. The Parliamentary Elections (Polling-Day) Bill, which passed its Second Reading on February 27th, provides for all polling at the General Election to take place on the same day. The only new proposals contained in this Bill are the proposal to make women eligible for Parliament, and the adoption of the alternative vote. These are questions of detail which can be settled in Committee. The Second Reading vote, which is a vote on the general principle of the Bill, should have the support of all those who were prepared to support the Government Franchise Bill last year, *i.e.*, of the whole of the Liberal, Labour, and Irish Parties.

Conservatives will, of course, oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, since they object to the principle on which it is based ; they do not believe that adult age and a month's residence in the same place are adequate qualifications for the exercise of the franchise, either for women or for men. But if the Bill passes Second Reading and reaches Committee stage, and the Anti-suffragists move an amendment to exclude women, then Conservative Suffragists will be able to oppose that amendment on the ground stated by Lord Selborne in a speech at the Sun Hall, Liverpool, on November 22nd, 1911, when he said that though he was opposed to Manhood Suffrage and Adult Suffrage, yet if he had to have Manhood Suffrage forced upon him, he would rather have the women too, because, in his opinion, the addition of women would be a mitigation and not an increase of the risk.

Welsh Home Rule Bill.

The Welsh Home Rule Bill, introduced by Mr. E. T. John (Liberal Member for E. Denbighshire) on March 11th, provides for the enfranchisement of all women who, apart from the consideration of sex, would be entitled to be on the register. It will be remembered that Mr. Snowden's Amendment to enfranchise Irishwomen under the Irish Home Rule Bill was defeated in November, 1912, the Irish Party voting solidly against it. The Scotch Home Rule Bill, introduced last year, contained no provision for the enfranchisement of Scotch women, though the Committee appointed to draft the Bill had recommended the inclusion of such a clause, on the Dickinson

basis. It has been left to Welshmen to have the honour of leading the way in recognising the claims of their fellow-countrywomen.

Dr. Chapple will shortly introduce a Bill "to make further and better provision with respect to illegitimacy and maternity." It provides for a maternity order to be made on the father before the birth of an illegitimate child; empowers the court to grant legal assistance to the mother; and enables a summons or warrant to be served or executed in any part of the British Isles. Repeated refusals to comply with an order will result in the offender being dealt with as "a rogue and a vagabond." Children are to be legitimised by the subsequent marriage of their parents (if they were both unmarried at the time of the birth), and are in any case to pay legacy duty only on the scale of legitimate children. They are made responsible for the maintenance of the mother, and, in some cases, of the father, under the Poor Laws. Boards of Guardians are required to provide, as far as possible, separate wards for the first confinement of unmarried mothers.

LIBERAL WOMEN AND ANTI-SUFFRAGE CANDIDATES.

A report of the inaugural meeting of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union, held on the afternoon of March 4th, reached us last week just as we were going to press, so that we were only able to insert a few lines, calling attention to the fact that the Union, whose members are pledged only to work for Suffragist Liberals, already numbers over 5,000 members.

Mrs. McLaren, in her opening address, pointed out that the policy of the Union was the same as the *official* policy of the Women's Liberal Federation, but that it applied to all individual members; not only to the official organisers. She urged members to make Suffrage a test question.

Mrs. Heron Maxwell gave the report of the nine months' work of the Union, and explained that:—

"The aim of the Union is, on the one hand, to rally round Liberal candidates who, if returned to Parliament, will work for women's enfranchisement. On the negative side the members pledge themselves to give no political support to candidates who deny to all women any share in political responsibility. Already two-thirds of Liberal members and over two-thirds of the selected candidates are declared Suffragists, but there are many constituencies where candidates have not yet been chosen, and we hope to see the proportion of candidates still further increased."

Mrs. Acland, who was received with tremendous applause, moved the following resolution:—

"That we, as Liberal women working within the Liberal Party for the promotion of Liberal principles, have increasingly realised the necessity of their application to women, especially as the vote is now recognised as the chief means of several vital reforms. We, therefore, call upon Liberal women to join the new movement which has been started for strengthening the hands of our leaders in Parliament, and for proving the earnestness of our claim to a full share of responsibility as enfranchised citizens."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

At the general meeting the Lady Cowdray took the chair, and Mr. F. D. Acland, M.P., was the chief speaker. Mr. Acland said:—

"Think back to 1866. If the Government of that day had dealt with the Irish Church, Irish land, and education before extending the franchise. . . . No Liberal alive would have failed to sympathise with the working-men who, when they were pressing for their enfranchisement, refused to work for candidates who were against them.

"In the House of Commons we want a majority not only for the principle of Women's Suffrage, but for some definite measure. Each Party should define their measure. Conservatives have already defined their measure as equal suffrage, to enfranchise occupiers, owners, and joint occupiers. The latter class means wives of those occupying houses of over £20 rateable value, not of working men, and implies also agreement of husband and landlord. This alone ought to convert any Liberal to favour a more democratic measure. This thing must come, and the Liberal party must adopt this latest phase of democracy."

Mr. Dickinson, M.P., who followed, said that Women's Suffrage must inevitably be made a part of the Liberal programme.

Mr. Maclaren said that organised supporters of Mr. Dickinson's Bill found two obstacles—that life-long friends of Suffrage would not vote for it at the slightest risk to the Liberal Party, and that the resource and keenness of the Anti-suffragists enabled the minority to disorganise the efforts of the majority.

The Lady Aberconway, in a fine speech, pointed out that:

"It was not that women were disloyal to Liberalism, but would Liberalism be loyal to the women? There was a great danger to Liberalism in going against Women's Suffrage. Man thought of the Empire where the sun never sets; but woman's heart yearned over the alleys where the sun never rose. Both ideals must be united."

MR. ACLAND AT CARDIFF.

At a crowded meeting held in the Park Hall, Cardiff, on March 6th, Mr. F. D. Acland, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, made a strong speech in favour of making Women's Suffrage a party measure.

Unfortunately, his rising was the signal for an outburst of questions from a party of militants. One interrupter asked, rather prematurely, "Why do you come here to utter platitudes?" which brought the ready retort: "I haven't uttered any yet, because you haven't given me the chance." Mr. Acland then went on to say:—

"You must remember that the Government were not elected on the question of votes for women. They were elected on other quite distinct questions which they had not yet succeeded in dealing with in legislation, and it was rather hard to expect them to take up another subject.

"'Then you don't regard it as very important?'

"Indeed, I do," replied Mr. Acland, "or I should not be here."

Must Be a Party Measure.

Recounting the set-backs which the cause had had in Parliament, Mr. Acland said he quite agreed that they must make it a party measure. It was easy enough to get bills carried on second reading, but when they came to the real question as to which sort of women should be enfranchised there had never been a majority in favour of a particular class of women getting the vote. The only thing was to get it adopted as a party measure in order that they might agree beforehand not only on the principle, but upon the details.

MRS. FAWCETT AND THE LONDON SOCIETY'S RECEPTION.

Mrs. Fawcett, speaking at the reception at Westminster Palace Hotel, on March 6th, took as the text of her speech Mr. Galsworthy's letter to the *Times*. She pointed out that though the questions enumerated by Mr. Galsworthy as deserving, but not receiving, consideration in Parliament, were all questions in which women were deeply interested, and which they might justly be expected to insist upon when they were enfranchised, other questions, not less but even more important, were not mentioned at all. Mrs. Fawcett referred especially to the terrible wrongs inflicted on little girls, and instanced the case in Fulham when a man, for making his own little step-daughter a mother, was sentenced only to three months in the second division. She told us that in the same district—Fulham—a policeman had recently been presented with an illuminated address for having saved *six hundred children* from houses of ill-fame. "If one man has done that," said Mrs. Fawcett, "it lifts a veil from a mass of desecrated ruined childhood, which is perfectly horrifying in its hugeness."

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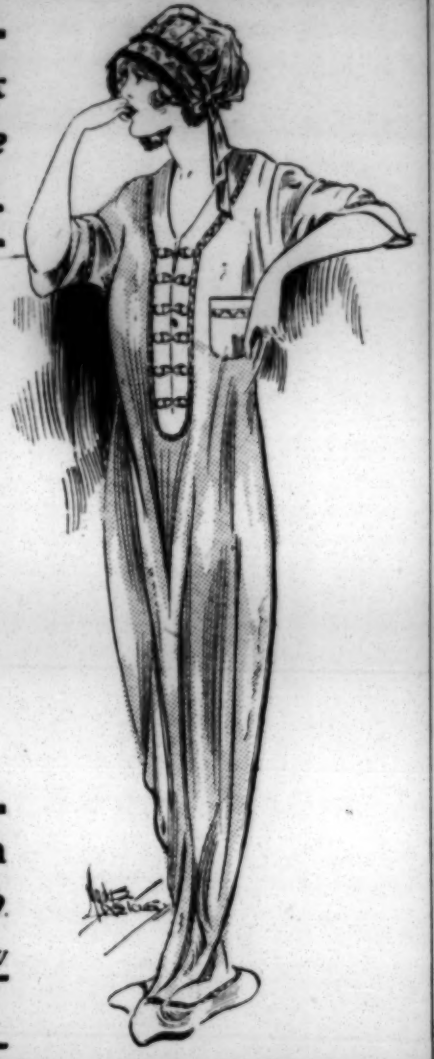

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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

In *Australia from a Woman's Point of View*,* Miss Jessie Ackermann writes sympathetically and with faith in the possibilities of the young land and its people, undimmed by knowledge of the many faults and even grave evils which have yet to be remedied. It is a serious drawback to the value of her book, however, that the information given is not dated. In almost every chapter statements may be called in question on this ground. For example, while praising the advance of mothercraft, which has resulted in so marked a decrease in infant mortality, Miss Ackermann remarks that the marriage-rate and birth-rate are both on the decline (p. 95). But the Commonwealth Statistics show that there has been a steady increase in the marriage-rate since 1903, and in the birth-rate since 1907. Again, on p. 174, the cost of living is said to be about 33 per cent. greater in the West of Australia than it is in the Eastern States. It is not easy to guess, even with the aid of the *Year Book*, what period is referred to, for since 1901 there has been no such wide difference. In 1901, 18s. 2d. bought as much in Sydney as 20s. 4d. in Perth. In 1913 23s. 9d. in Sydney equalled 22s. 3d. in Perth. Between those dates there are slight fluctuations. Miss Ackermann is probably relying on hearsay.

Closely connected with the cost of living is the question of Women's Wages, and under this heading are some of the most serious misstatements of all. On p. 260, we find the following sentences:—

"Remuneration to shop and factory girls is criminally low. A girl who must wholly depend on it cannot live a decent life. Much of the evil into which young girls fall is due to the cruelly low price paid for their services."

And on p. 243, referring to factory women, "In some of the States their condition is awful in the extreme." Miss Ackermann does not specify which States.

From the *Year Book* I choose the average weekly rates paid to women in the boot and tailoring trades in Sydney, because Miss Ackermann says that one out of four of the business girls in N.S.W. is employed in those trades:—

	s.	d.
Bootmakers	25	6
Tailors' Machinists	28	0
Tailoresses ... ... 26s. and	32	6

The minimum rate fixed by the Wages Board is 16s. per week. In the great majority of cases, to my own knowledge, good work immediately commands higher remuneration. As regards cost of living, compared with London, my own experience is that Sydney is not dearer than London, and that other parts of Australia are much cheaper to live in. The *Year Book* gives, concerning all the States, statistics similar to the cases I have quoted.

Miss Ackermann considers that the woman's vote in Australia has as yet done little good. But she overlooks the fact that the admirable legislation regarding lighting and sanitation of workshops, the regulation of the hours of labour (48 hours per week in the cases I have quoted), the careful regulation of the labour of the wage-earning children, date from the time when men and women began to work together in the government of the State. Miss Ackerman tells us nothing, too, of the admirable work of the women factory inspectors.

But in other chapters we find much for which we owe the author hearty thanks. Most of all, Australian women will appreciate the indignation with which she brushes aside the accusation that a low moral tone prevails among them. On p. 98 she says, "Women in Australia have advanced in a knowledge of scientific motherhood. They are seriously considering themselves as life-givers." And, again, of the children of these mothers (p. 100), "There seems little danger of the decay of the race in Australia." Harriet C. Newcomb.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

News from America.

The United States Senate has decided by 47 votes to 14 in favour of submitting a Women's Suffrage amendment to the constitution to a referendum of voters. This enormously important decision would, if put into effect, and if the referendum gave a favourable result, enfranchise all women in the United States. Before it is acted upon, however, the House of Representatives must come into line.

WOMEN VOTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Executive of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association (London) has decided to hold, once a month, a Sunday afternoon meeting in Hyde Park, when addresses will be given on the effect of equal Suffrage in Australia and New Zealand.

* Cassell 6s.

Some Recent Books.

Saved From Siberia. By Kate Malecka. (London: Everett & Co. Price 1s.)

The cause of woman is the cause of freedom, and all sympathisers with women and lovers of freedom will read Miss Malecka's book with the deepest interest. Its restrained and simple yet vivid style will be a further commendation. Readers of The Common Cause will doubtless remember Miss Malecka's case, which excited so much attention two years ago. She, a British subject, because of her sympathy with free institutions and reformers, was arrested by the Russian Government, and but for the efforts of England, would be undergoing an appalling sentence at the present moment. Those, and they are too many, who delude themselves into thinking that the Government of Russia is a tolerable thing, ought to read this little book, and learn something of their methods. Miss Malecka was condemned solely on the manufactured evidence of a miserable creature called Sukiennik, who, condemned to be hanged, had turned informer to save himself. He is still obliged to continue informing, and to bring in a yearly supply of victims, for his sentence is not repealed, but still hangs over him. Sukiennik is kept in the citadel. He is a prisoner, for he has not been pardoned, "only reprieved till further notice" (p. 83). It is not surprising after this to read of the abominable catechism to which Miss Malecka was subjected, the authorities doing their best to persuade her to save herself by following Sukiennik's example. "You are an Englishwoman, therefore one who is by nature loyal. It is an act of loyalty to the Government to inform against suspected persons. There can be nothing dishonourable in telling us the names of M. Filipowicz's friends. . . . Besides, no one will ever know." . . .

If she would not yield to these blandishments Siberia was held over her, "The Pit," as they call it, with grim and appropriate humour, and Miss Malecka knew well what the journey there might mean, a journey on which "the prisoners are entirely at the mercy of the officials, some of whom are decent men enough, but some of whom are brutal" (p. 114).

This sort of thing at one end, and at the other the stupid, petty, and maddening interference that makes it impossible to give a literary lecture without sanction, and a matter of chance whether that sanction is ever obtained (p. 30). There is a conspiracy of silence in the English Press about Russian evils, just as there is a conspiracy of silence about Suffragist news. Let us take comfort from Disraeli's saying, "The system that cannot bear discussion is doomed."

F. Mebian Stawell.

Reminiscences of My Life. Henry Holiday. (Heinemann. 16s. net.)

The author of this entertaining volume is an artist who is best known by his picture of "Dante and Beatrice," of which there have been many reproductions. He has worked successfully in other directions, stained glass, mural painting, mosaic, &c., always with a strong feeling for the decorative side of art. In this respect, and in the effort to improve social conditions, he belongs to the group headed by William Morris, Walter Crane, and Burne Jones. His early sympathy with the "Votes for Women" movement is well shown by the following account of a meeting held at his house more than twenty years ago:—

"On June 5th, 1892, we had a Women's Suffrage Meeting at Oak Tree House at which Mrs. Jacob Bright, who was the chief speaker, gave an admirable, reasoned and effective address, and I took the Chair. We had issued invitations freely to our neighbours, without knowing their opinions and were surprised to find that only two persons (both men) spoke against the resolution, and these took opposite lines. One said "Woman stands on a pedestal, above the turmoil of the work-a-day world. Man toils for her, he braves the perils of the ocean to fetch her silks, and dives into the depths to find pearls, and he showers them upon Woman," &c. The other spoke with contempt of woman's incapacity and total unfitness for the duties of citizenship and asked "Would anyone seriously propose to give the vote to the girls at the A. B. C.'s?

"In summing up, I thanked our opponents for the graphic picture their combined speeches offered of the girls of the A.B.C. standing on pedestals and having silks and pearls showered on them; a picture which we all recognised as accurately representing the position of women, especially working women in the community."

The Letters of a Schoolma'am. Edited by A. B. de Bary. (Dent. 2s.)

A charming account of the experiences of a cultivated woman as teacher in a village school. The writer combats the idea—unfortunately so common among elementary school teachers—that the training of peasant children affords "no scope." She deplores the effect of the training college upon the promising country boy or girl who wishes to take up teaching, and urges that "the peasant teacher having been rendered as scarce and flavourless as apples in May," his place should be taken, to some extent, by better educated men and women with a love of country life, who should "become peasants by adoption and grace," entering into the life of the little community, as she herself had done. Such teachers, she maintains, would leave their mark on the country-side in a way that "the incumbent of the parish might envy in vain."

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THE PROBLEM OF THE MARRIED WORKING WOMAN.

Madam,—It seems to me that there is need for much clear thinking on the subject of the economic dependence of the married working woman, and as a member of the N.U.W.S.S., and a constant reader of The Common Cause, I am glad you have opened your columns for discussion on the subject. Theoretically, one would like to think it possible for every hard-working wife and mother to be economically independent; but practically, is it possible? When a woman of the lower middle or working class marries, if she is made of the right stuff she expects to work hard in her home; and though she does not earn money directly, she can, and does, by her endless labours, make much indirectly. This fact is rarely recognised by those who have never had the experience of running a home with little or no outside help. It has yet to be proved that a middle-class or workman's home would be in a better way (even from a financial point of view) if the wife were to bring in a wage as well as the husband, and meantime pay others to fulfil her household duties and tend her children; but even if it were so, there are other things quite as important to be considered. Surely the bond between a mother and her children (the closest and most sacred that nature has decreed) points to the necessity for her being their caretaker? It is not only during the year preceding and the year after a child's birth that the mother is disabled from work outside her own home, but all through the years of her children's lives until the last of them is launched into the working world. The necessary nursing, cooking, scrubbing, cleaning, and washing during all those years keep her fully occupied. Is not married life, if taken as it ought to be, as much a career (at least for many long years) as any occupation a man may choose by which to earn a living? And shall we not put a double burden on women's shoulders if we fail to recognise this?

Some men even recognise it, and it is not at all an uncommon thing in Yorkshire for a working man to put the whole of his week's wages into his wife's hands, taking back an incredibly small amount for "baccy," &c. Could any higher tribute be paid to a wife's ability, or could any greater sign of real comradeship be given? Mrs. Ada Nield Chew, in her article in last week's Common Cause, says "all women should take part in work which advances human progress." Can any work advance human progress more than the conscientious, steady work that a woman puts into her home, maintaining a high standard of cleanliness, comfort, and order, tending her children and setting an example of thrift and industry, making the little "go a long way," in fact, making a home? Our great woman's movement will only progress in proportion as we women see our great responsibilities, wherever they may be.

Mrs. Chew also says "all women are no more fit for domestic tasks or baby-tending, than all men are fit to be engineers," which raises the question: Is work to be shirked because it is uncongenial? It was, I think, Professor Henry Sidgwick who said "one acquires a secondary enthusiasm for any work which presents itself as a *duty*," and this is certainly true of all kinds of domestic work and child-tending. Once a woman has chosen marriage and motherhood (and she is not compelled to choose them), and then discovers she has undertaken uncongenial work, she will advance no cause by turning her back on it. Let her make a conscientious effort to fill her niche faithfully and successfully. It can be done. And as likely as not her husband who has drifted into bricklaying or joinering, book-keeping or tailoring, is fighting the same battle himself.

Reforms *are* needed in the home—badly needed; better housing conditions, education in cooking and hygiene, a sense of responsibility which would avoid the reckless production of large families on inadequate means (one of the most fruitful causes of poverty). By all means let us have co-operative nurseries and any other alleviation that can be suggested where through misfortune it becomes necessary for the wife to take up the burden of wage-earner (and unfortunately there are always many such cases), but it cannot be an ideal state of affairs for mother and children to be separated. Let us clear our minds about this work in the home. Given decent conditions, it should not be considered "domestic drudgery." Unremunerative it is, and must be, by its very nature, but it has its rewards, and every woman who is, bravely "standing her corner" in her home is strengthening the hands of those women who are more free to fight the great cause of women in the open.

Edith Chettle.

ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.

Madam,—The election of Guardians of the Poor will begin throughout most parts of the country in a few days. Guardians have far greater power for good (or for evil) than the working classes and their friends seem to understand. The Guardians can:—

"(1) Give adequate out-relief to necessitous (not merely the actually destitute) widows; and to elderly men who have not yet arrived at pension age, but are not able-bodied; also to the able-bodied, when wife or child is sick, and in many other cases; (2) give out-door medical relief (with meat, beef-tea, &c., if ordered by the doctor) without disfranchisement or loss of old-age pension; (3) in those cases where they can only offer the able-bodied "the House" treat them decently; (4) treat a married woman or a child as an individual human being, and not merely as a "fraction of a family"; (5) abstain from calling upon labourers, with less than a minimum living wage, to repay cost of relief for parents;

(6) in time of distress give out-relief coupled with employment; (7) carry out the Law of England, and not the fancies of the Philosophers of 1834."

Some Boards of Guardians do these things; and many workhouses are much improved. Now is the time for selection of candidates.

J. THEODORE DODD, M.A., J.P.
(For fifteen years a Guardian of the Poor.)

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

MADAM,—When an editor (and, I take it, you would with even greater emphasis say an editoress) ventures to attempt to correct a correspondent, it seems to me that accuracy should be aimed at. The absurdly inaccurate statement you make about my brother, Lord Knutsford, "standing almost alone in opposing the Registration of Nurses" is dealt with by him in the enclosed letter which appeared in the "Times" this morning, and which I ask you to reprint in THE COMMON CAUSE in the interest of common justice.

A. HOLLAND HIBBERT.

[*We do not say, with greater or with lesser emphasis, "editoress," since no such word exists. Lord Knutsford's letter, which can be read in the "Times" by all who wish to see it, announces that the matrons of 224 hospitals signed a petition against registration. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick informs us that the societies affiliated to the Central Committee for Registration number 26,000 medical practitioners and upwards of 10,000 matrons and nurses. She adds, "Support is given by organised Societies; opposition comes from a few individuals." On the whole, "tiny minority" seems to have been an adequate description.*—ED., C.C.]

"HELPING THE ENEMY."

MADAM,—I should be glad to know if other N.U.W.S.S. secretaries have recently received—as I have—a marked copy of a recent issue of *The Suffragette*. It contains a leading article by Miss Christabel Pankhurst entitled, "Women Who Help the Enemy"—a bitter attack upon the National Union's political work. The entire article shows so complete a misunderstanding of the political situation with regard to Women's Suffrage and the feeling in the country, that one can only gasp with amazement! If this article has been sent to others besides myself, I feel that some definite reply might, with advantage, be published in THE COMMON CAUSE.

FLORENCE M. BEAUMONT.

[*We are informed that the* SUFFRAGETTE *is frequently sent to members and especially officials of the N.U. whenever it contains an attack on their Union. The article to which Miss Beaumont refers is based on the curious theory that when a Labour candidate stands against a Liberal he is in some mysterious way "helping" the Liberal party. The Liberal party does not hold this view. We never met anyone but the* SUFFRAGETTE *who did.*—ED., C.C.]

WOMEN AND HOME RULE.

The following letter from Lady Selborne appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, of March 10th:—

SIR—I have to-day received a letter from the secretary of the Primrose League, inviting me to sign a declaration that, in the event of the Home Rule Bill being passed into law without being submitted to the judgment of the nation, "I shall hold myself justified in taking or supporting any action that may be effective to prevent it being put into operation."

What a silly declaration to ask a woman to sign. How are we to prevent an Act of Parliament being put into operation?

If the words are to be taken literally, it means that the men who sign this declaration are prepared to fight rather than allow the law to be put into force. I do not suppose they wish the women to do that, and, except a general strike against the payment of taxes, I can imagine no militant movement in which we could usefully take part.

Sir, the women should have been allowed to draw up their own protest, which they would have done with some regard to the actual facts of the situation. Many of us regard with the utmost detestation the proposal to force Ulster to accept a form of government which she hates, and we would willingly have pledged ourselves to do all that we could lawfully to remedy this injustice. But a promise to acquiesce or support militant methods is not to be so lightly given.

Let me say in conclusion that it seems to me very inconsistent on the part of those who object to women signifying their opinions on politics in a lawful and constitutional manner, to urge them to promise that they will not hesitate to try and make these opinions prevail, even if they have to use unlawful and unconstitutional means.—I am yours very truly,

MAUD SELBORNE.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY HONOURS.

Two women have for the first time won the degree of *Baccalaura in Scientiis* at Trinity College, Dublin. Both won honours throughout their university career, taking their degree of B.A. in 1912, and obtaining a senior moderatorship in experimental science with Gold Medal. The subject of their year's research work, prior to admission to the B.Sc. degree, was organic chemistry; Miss Coade's subject for the thesis presented for the degree was "The Structure of Carbonide and Thio-carbonide."

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, 2, *Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

"Towers of Talk."

There has recently been a recurrence in the press of a suggestion put forward long ago, and still making somewhat pathetic efforts to gain a hearing. Two articles in the *Nineteenth Century*, and a little pamphlet by Mr. Watson Duncan, deal with this suggestion, and all are written in the most friendly and sympathetic manner imaginable. All are genuinely anxious to solve a difficult question. All speak with obvious sincerity of the justice of the demand of modern women to some voice in the government of their country. And all have taken the greatest possible amount of pains to think out their solution.

The first article, by Mr. S. M. Mitra, advocates the provision in the Cabinet of one Minister who shall represent the women. He is to be helped by an Advisory Council of Twelve—eight women and four men. The men members must not be Members of Parliament, but it would be nice if they were ex-Members, in order that they might teach the Council how to conduct its business after a truly Parliamentary fashion. The Secretary (a man) should be old and sage—the women members, persons of experience and reputation, so that they may be able to act with the men on the lofty level of statesmanship to which Parliamentary usage has accustomed them. All "mental angularities" must be concealed, and "a subtle network of confidence" is to bind the sexes together. People not fortunate or good enough to be in the network can present memoranda and —if asked—even come in person, to the Council. The Cabinet Minister is to be "without predilection for any political faction," with "a reputation" for being in sympathy with women. It will be his business "to put women's interests in their true perspective, to clear them from party feeling and sentimentality, leaving only untarnished sentiment pure and noble." Of the Council, half will be appointed by the Government (also, no doubt, without any party bias), and half elected by women's organisations. Most women, apparently, prefer not to belong to any organisation. But, of course, if they want a vote, they can always buy one by joining something, and paying the minimum subscription. If they don't like the objects of the organisation, of course it will be rather tiresome for them; but probably there will be one whose object it is to defeat those objects, and they can always join that too—and get two votes.

As for the Council thus elected, it will be its undisputed right to talk.

Mr. Mitra rightly adds that, to his proposals, no Anti-suffragist can object. We agree with him.

In the March number of the *Nineteenth Century* appears an article by Lady Byron supporting Mr. Mitra, and suggesting a Peeresses' League to lead the new agitation. The Lords, says Lady Byron, "seem to be losing ground," and "it would be most appropriate that we should come to the rescue of our husbands." A heart of stone could not but be moved by this appeal, and we look to see a rush of peeresses to the rescue of their discouraged spouses. It is not immediately clear to us in what way the Council of Twelve (with Cabinet Minister) is going to proceed in the matter of rescuing the Lords. Perhaps the Minister will be empowered to put their sad case before the House of Commons, with pure untarnished sentiment. Or

perhaps the Minister himself will be a peer, and that will rescue at least one. We do not know. But we feel a little worried about the place in this scheme to be assigned to its "onlie begetter"—Mrs. Humphry Ward. She is not, it must sorrowfully be admitted, a peeress. Nor is she a distressed peer. And yet we could not help feeling, as we read these interesting articles, that they were rather designed to rescue her than the most distressed peer in the world. There are positions from which one really must get out somehow. . . .

We shall, of course, watch with the deepest interest the progress of the plan, and hope, even if it does not immediately silence the silly clamour for the vote, the formation of a Peeresses' League will at least have other happy results. According to Lady Byron, "if there had been *any sort of* Peeresses' League in the Coronation year," the Indian Princesses would almost certainly have presented us with a cruiser, torpedo-boat, or other trifle. But as no "sort" of League existed, this was most regrettably overlooked, and the Indian Princesses went away without leaving behind them so much as a canoe. This, Lady Byron rightly feels, must not be allowed to occur again. But we confess to feeling a growing anxiety about the interests of women, when so much time is being allotted to the rescue of peers and tactful management of Indian Princesses with cruisers to give away.

Perhaps Mr. Watson Duncan's scheme presents a more hopeful appearance. Mr. Duncan offers us, not a Council of eight women and four men, but a House—positively an entire House—all to ourselves. This House will, however, have exactly equal rights with those of Mr. Mitra's Council. It will be privileged, absolutely and without qualification, to talk. Women, it will be remembered, have always wanted to talk. Harsh judges have even gone so far as to say that they talk too much, and women themselves have begun to express an unnatural desire to act. Mr. Duncan, however, is of opinion that they cannot talk too much. He organises an entire Chamber, whose sole duty it will be to converse unceasingly. Has it any power? No—none at least but this. Its members may talk to each other for years and years if they please, and no one will have the shadow of a right to stop them. They may even, if this is not enough, insist on sending a deputation to talk to the House of Commons. They will be allowed to draft Bills, and have the inexpressible delight of seeing them introduced into the House of Commons, and thrown out again with the utmost regularity. We willingly assume with Mr. Duncan that the Prime Minister will be "bound" to give time for this process, though we confess we did not find any proposals for binding him to do anything of the sort. And we contemplate with awe the vast possibilities for talk which are opened up by the rejection of each Bill in turn. Such an unending process must be held to make up for one or two little exceptions which Mr. Duncan has felt bound to make: women are not even to *talk* about financial or Imperial questions, nor to send proposals on these subjects to the House of Commons, even for the fun of having them rejected. Mr. Duncan rightly feels that women, being as a sex poorer than men, are not as much concerned with taxation. When you have very little money, it would be mean indeed to resent its being taken away. Who would make a fuss over a few shillings? While as most women have to administer their husband's wages, and many "budget" for a family of five or six "round about a pound a week," it may be assumed as an axiom that the price of tea and sugar is a matter with which they can have no concern. It is the same with Imperial questions. Everyone knows that there are no women in India, or if there are a few, they are perfectly happy, contented, and find life one grand sweet song from start to finish. War cannot matter to women, for if it breaks out, they have nothing in the world to do but send their husbands and sons to the front to be killed, while they amuse themselves with earning a living for their families with one hand, and paying the war-taxes with the other.

With these important exceptions, however, the women can, in their House, talk about any subject in the world that they like. No one will have the power—we are confident that no one will have the wish—to stop them. To sum up, then, in general terms:—

Women are asking for the right to vote; that is, to share, equally with men, in the control of legislation, and they demand that the 675 Members of Parliament and 20 (more or less) Cabinet Ministers, shall be responsible to them equally with men.

They are offered (by Mr. Mitra) the right to talk to four ex-Members of Parliament, plus one Cabinet Minister of pure untarnished gold; and (by Mr. Duncan) the right to talk to each other on a certain number of subjects, and (occasionally) to the House of Commons (if a quorum of members can be got to listen to them).

Everyone, we believe, will feel that these are proposals to which any Anti-suffragist can agree without one nervous qualm. For our part, we await with what calm we may the selection of the gentleman who has attained Cabinet rank wholly without party feeling of any kind, and with character of pure untarnished gold. Our own experience of Cabinet Ministers—but, of course, we may have been misled. Only, we confess to being haunted with the saying of Samantha: "*Men and women can't be only jest about so good, any way.*"

The Housing Problem in Our Villages.

[In view of the fact that Sir Arthur Boscawen's Housing Bill comes up for its Second Reading very shortly (March 20th), and that as a matter of fact no "disability of wife and mother" is so great as that imposed by bad housing, we have postponed publication of an article by Mrs. Annot Robinson on "State Endowment of Motherhood" until next week. Mrs. Robinson will put forward a solution on different lines from those proposed by Mrs. Chew. In neither case, of course, does the National Union endorse the proposals put forward in signed articles in this paper.]

One of the strongest arguments which can be brought forward against extending the Parliamentary franchise to women is that women have failed to use the powers they already possess, and that comparatively few of them take the trouble to record their votes at local elections, or are willing to offer themselves as candidates for Parish, District, and County Councillors.

On the 6th of next month elections will take place in 128 Unions in England and Wales for Rural District Councils and Poor Law Guardians, and it is to be hoped that a considerable increase will be found in the number of women offering themselves as candidates willing to serve the community by administering wisely and justly the laws that already exist.

I do not propose to dwell on the excellent work women have done and are doing as Poor Law Guardians. My concern in this article is to direct the thoughts and energies of women to the housing problem, and to try to suggest how we can help to abolish the very terrible housing conditions that exist in so many of our villages. Politicians of all parties are at last thoroughly alive to the fact that in order to house our country people decently, 125,000 cottages must be erected at once.

Housing powers are vested in the Parish, County, and district councils, but so far as I am aware not a single Parish Council has used the powers it has possessed for six years for building cottages on allotments of not less than one acre; and the County Councils have practically confined their efforts to building about 1,000 cottages on the small holdings they have provided under the 1908 Act. It is therefore to the District Councils we turn our attention, as they are the authority which possesses the most extensive housing powers.

There are 651 Rural District Councils in England and Wales, and each Council averages about twenty-two members. Of about 14,000 Councillors only 200 (serving on 139 Councils) are women, and I strongly believe that this shortage of women on our Councils accounts for the shortage of cottages in our villages.

Under the Housing Acts, it is the business of the District Council to see that there is a sufficient supply of good cottages in its district; and if there are not enough it is its duty to build what are required. Till the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, the legal formalities were very cumbersome, and few District Councils (only eight in all) had built cottages. But now the procedure for acquiring land compulsorily (if necessary) has been considerably simplified, and the terms upon which the Council can borrow money have been improved, and, as the latest returns of the Local Government Board show us, considerable activity is being displayed by local authorities. Notwithstanding this, however, the provisions for building new cottages are still imperfect, a statement which can hardly be disputed in face of the fact that whilst 2,687 houses were closed in rural districts in the year 1911-12 by the sanitary authorities as unfit for human habitation, the number of houses authorised to be built in the year 1912-13 was only 331. (These are the latest figures published.)

One may here pertinently ask, Why do not Councils build when there is such a dearth of cottages? The answer is that in many districts the low rate of wages amongst agricultural labourers makes it impossible for them to pay an economic rent for their cottages, and that Councils hesitate to embark

on schemes which may involve a loss and a consequent cost on the rates. We have yet to learn that it pays in the long run to house our people properly, and that much of the illness and disease which have to be coped with in hospitals and sanatoria are the direct result of insanitary housing.

In the King's Speech a promise is given that a measure of Housing Reform will be introduced this Session by the Government, and we await with the keenest interest details of the Bill. Some years ago our King, in the course of a speech, said: "The glory of England rests in the homes of the people." After reading through the reports of the medical officers of health one begins to wonder where the "glory" is to be found!

Here are typical examples from some reports: "Dwelling accommodation for poorer classes very unsatisfactory. Many cottages of miserable character, in last stages of disrepair and neglect, and many unfit for human habitation." "Many of the houses very damp and dilapidated, serious cases of overcrowding exist, and there is generally a lack of suitable bedroom accommodation." "Plainly speaking, there are a number of cottages that should be closed; but then the question arises, where are the present tenants to go?"

Even the most superficial knowledge of village life leads one to the conclusion that much of the immorality is directly due to the lack of housing accommodation. The following cases are given by a medical officer of health: "Man and wife and six children (males twenty-one, sixteen, fourteen, females eleven, five, and one), in two small bedrooms. Man and wife and six children (males thirteen, eleven, seven, five, one female three) in one bedroom. Man, wife, and eight children (males fifteen, six, four, two, females fourteen, thirteen, nine, seven) in one bedroom, partitioned into two parts by sheets." "Man and wife and six children (males seventeen, eight, females nineteen, six, four, three months) in one bedroom partitioned into two parts by sheets." When one reads such cases recorded in official reports, and when one thinks of all the unnecessary misery, bad health, and consequent expense, caused by the failure of public authorities to administer laws, one feels the pressing need for women in administration as well as in legislation.

Those of us who are actively engaged as Rural District Councillors in promoting housing schemes are following with a considerable amount of apprehension the utterances of Cabinet Ministers in regard to the Government proposals for housing legislation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Agriculture have both declared themselves in favour of housing being put into the hands of the central authority, which means more paid officials, and one begins to wonder what has become of the good old Liberal watchword "Trust the People"! Surely the fundamental principle of democracy is to stimulate and encourage people to take an interest in their own localities by putting more power into their hands. We readily admit that local authorities, through ignorance, indifference, or selfishness, have failed to a great extent in their duties in regard to the Housing Acts; but the point I specially ask women to note is that this proposal to supersede the local authorities by the State building of cottages is a distinct "set-back" to women. Women have at present got a direct power, both by means of the vote and by being eligible to serve on District Councils, for dealing with the homes of the people, and it behoves us to express ourselves emphatically on the matter ere it be too late. The best protest we can make is to see that a large number of women are nominated on the 19th of March, and that they put Housing Reform as the first plank on their platform. Remember that every woman, married or single, who has resided for the last year in the district, is eligible for election, as well as every woman who is on the electoral list.

Marjory Pease,
Rural District Councillor.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

We have received the following communication from the Hon. Treasurer of the Committee on Wage-Earning Children:

In consideration of your recent series of articles on children's questions, I ask for space in your columns to bring forward the aims of Mr. Denman's Bill dealing with School Attendance and the Employment of Children. This Bill does not attempt to deal with the lamentable employment of children liable to full school attendance, save in the clause which provides for the transfer of the duty of approving local by-laws on the subject from the Board of Education to the Home Office; but this in itself would be a most important step, since it is the tendency of the Board to consider primarily the children's interests, while the Home Office gives more weight to the representations of those who gain by their labour.

The proposed advance in the school-leaving age is merely a further step in the direction indicated by the Education Act of 1870. In the opinion of educational experts it is fully time such a step was taken. Abolition of the half-time system is but another step in the same direction. When the system was permitted by earlier Education Bills, it was in general use, even in country places. Nowadays, it has died a natural death in most parts of the country, being in general use only in the textile districts. It is condemned by educationalists as both physically and mentally handicapping to the half-timers. Reports of school medical officers for 1911 and 1912 show that children working outside school hours are shorter in height, lighter in weight, and show a greater percentage of heart strain, anæmia, and over fatigue than those not so employed. The wastage of intelligence is equally great, for the overworked child is quite unable to profit by the education provided. The children lose far more than 50 per cent. of their education. They are less inclined to discipline, and in schools where they cannot form separate classes they create disturbance among the full-time children.

The powers which this Bill would give to Education Committees of enforcing attendance at continuation classes are its least desirable part. The same difficulties beset the student at continuation classes as the half-timer, but in a worse degree. Children of thirteen who have done a day's work, whether in a mill or otherwise, are not in a fit state to profit by school instruction. Amendments will probably be made in Committee, however, by which continuation teaching will have to be given during the hours which would be otherwise spent at work.

Street-trading, which is also very largely restricted by the Bill, is not only physically and mentally harmful, but is morally the most deteriorating of blind-alley employments. Newspaper-selling, besides developing lung complaints, leads to gambling and idleness; flower-selling (defended in the House of Commons as "a beautiful employment") is the ruin of numbers of young girls. In these matters I do not speak from hearsay only, having had personal experience among children of this class. I have also had the benefit of much expert information as a member of the Committee on Wage-earning Children which, under the able guidance of Miss Adler, Mr. A. J. Mundella, and Miss Constance Smith, has done much excellent work.

S. Elizabeth Greg.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE FOR MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

ANALYSIS OF SIGNATURES TO A MEMORIAL.

PWLLHELI.

Town Council	15 members, all signed.
Liberal Executive Committee ...	22 members, 20 signed.
Women's Liberal Committee ...	16 members seen, 14 signed
Clergy and Ministers	7 seen, all signed.
Other Professional Men	9 seen, 7 signed.

NEVIN.

Parish Council	16 members, 14 seen, 13 signed.
Liberal Executive Committee ...	10 members, all signed.

CRICCIETH.

Urban District Council	15 members, 11 signed.
Liberal Executive Committee ...	16 members, 12 signed.
Clergy and Ministers	All signed, except one who is away, but he is a member of local society.
Other Professional Men	All those seen signed.

N.B.—Local Branch of N.U. numbers 114. This shows an increase of 24 during last year, *in spite of militancy*.

CARNARVON.

Town Council	24 members, 23 signed, 1 refused.
Liberal Executive Committee ...	49 members, 43 signed, 4 refused, 2 away.
W.L. Association Executive ...	22 members, 12 signed, none refused, (5 away).
Clergy and Ministers	17 seen, 16 signed.

Many other professional men also signed.

CONWAY.

Professional Men and Ministers	15 seen, 13 signed.
Town Council	16 members, 13 seen, 11 signed.
Liberal Executive Committee ...	22 members, 20 seen, 16 signed.
Other Men	70 seen, 60 signed.

Total seen (all voters save three or four), 118; 100 signed.

"WOMAN'S KINGDOM."

The Special Women's Department of the CHILDREN'S WELFARE EXHIBITION, Olympia, April 11th-30th.

Office: N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.
Organiser: Miss V. C. C. Collum. *Treasurer:* Miss Longley.

Among the many attractions of "Woman's Kingdom" will be a section on Women in Professions, which will serve to illustrate the progress which the Woman's Movement has made during the last few years. This is not, of course, intended to cover the whole area of women's work, the wide extent of which will be indicated in other sections. It will deal especially with careers involving a higher degree of responsibility, open to women in some part of the world. The more familiar professions accessible to both sexes, such as medicine, law, and teaching, will, of course, be included, but the work of women as responsible administrators and political leaders will also be demonstrated. For instance, the Norwegian Bench includes a woman Judge, and there is another at the head of the Court for delinquent girls in Chicago; there is also a woman at the head of the Department of Correction in New York, a woman is Chairman of the Democratic Party in Colorado, and, as is well known, there are twenty-one women members of Parliament in Finland. There are women also among ministers of religion both in England and in America, where the majority of the chaplains of women's prisons are women. In Denmark there are women so fully qualified in agriculture and land-surveying that they are employed in arranging large estates, and many of them personally manage their own lands and farms. A Danish lady also is a practical sea captain.

Information regarding these and other professions will always be found in the section, and during the afternoons each profession will be represented by a woman, in the appropriate official or academic or working dress, who will be able to give full information to all inquirers.

Arts and Crafts.

A special feature of the Arts and Crafts Section will be the demonstrators' stands, where different craftworkers will show all the processes of their crafts, and explain them to the onlookers. Another group will show village industries, among which it is hoped to represent, not only the industries of the United Kingdom, but of foreign countries as well. In some of these, also, demonstrations will be given. The Suffrage Atelier stand will arouse wide interest, and also under Miss Willis's management there will be silhouette and lightning portraits, where a busy time is anticipated by the artists.

In the gallery will be exhibited examples of the best work women are accomplishing to-day in the Arts and Crafts world. A collective exhibit from members of the Lyceum Club will attract special attention, including as it does the work of many distinguished craftswomen. Besides decorative drawings—etchings, wood engravings, and the like—pictures executed by the needle will be shown. Among other crafts are included illuminating and caligraphy, bookbinding, modelling, weaving, embroidery and hand-made lace, pottery and porcelain; while jewellery enamel and metal work will be well represented.

Open-Air Section.

One stand will show that woman's home-making instincts accompany her even to the wilds, and a woman's holiday camp, with a complete schedule showing the expenditure, will be shown by a Welsh lady, whose camp-setting genius has led her to the far-off Rockies, there to organise and run a men's fishing camp during the spring season. In neighbouring stands will be found a woman's "One Night's Bivouac" and some interesting evidences of women's exploring proclivities—all of which goes to show that the "eternal boy" sometimes peeps out in his mother!

As a stern contrast to these exhibits of outdoor life, there will be a section devoted to nursing—the profession above all others which brings out in women the "eternal mother," and one showing what women are doing in the matter of the education of mothers and infant care.

These are only a few out of many attractions which "Woman's Kingdom" offers. We hope to give next week fuller particulars than appeared in our issue of March 6th, of the excellent entertainments which are being organised by Miss Edith Craig and the Actresses' Franchise League, and also of the very interesting lectures which are being arranged. The exhibition of fine arts will also be well worth a visit.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Active Service Uniform.

Mrs. Harley sends a description of the proposed uniform for the Active Service League. Members (and also sellers in The Common Cause Corps) are recommended, but not obliged, to adopt it. It consists of a dark green coat and skirt, white blouse, red tie, soft green felt hat, with the Pilgrim badge (not in straw). The "C.C.C." will have a Common Cause carrier in the colours, and other members of the League a haversack. A specimen uniform will be on view shortly. The designer's aim will be to make it cheap, serviceable, and simple.

Report of Literature Department.

To many of the newer Societies the excellent picture leaflets provided by the Artists' Suffrage League may not be known. The Literature Department has, therefore, decided to stock these. The price is 1s. per hundred, and 9s. per thousand. The leaflets are printed on good paper, there are six designs, and samples may be had for the cost of postage, on application to the Literature Department. A new photograph postcard of Councillor Margaret Ashton is being stocked at 3d. each.

As already notified in a circular letter to Societies, a sale of literature is being held in the Literature Department, of leaflets and pamphlets, which will be sold off at the old prices—*e.g.*, the one-page leaflets at 4d. per 100. This has been happily nicknamed the "Black and White Sale," and gives Societies an excellent opportunity of renewing their supplies. Diaries for 1914 are being sold off at 6d. each "to clear."

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.

[The first three names on the list were printed last week, but we give them again so that the Birmingham contributions may all appear together.]

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	£4,796	1	7
Birmingham W.S.S.			
Miss Pugh	50	0	0
Mrs Osler	25	0	0
Miss Higginson	10	0	0
Mrs. Hughes	5	0	0
Miss Kirby	5	0	0
Mrs. J. K. Reid	2	0	0
Mrs. W. A. Cadbury	1	0	0
Mrs. Godlee	1	1	0
Mrs. Bayes		10	0
Mrs. Harrison Barrow	5	0	0
Mrs. Huxley	2	0	0
Mr. John D. Watson	2	0	0
Miss G. E. Southall	1	0	0
Miss J. S. Warmington	5	0	0
Mrs. Redhead	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Osler	20	0	0
Miss P. G. Fawcett (2nd Instalment)	5	0	0
Mrs. Aikin	2	0	0
Mrs. Ernest Knowles	2	0	0
Miss Annie Neligan	1	1	0
The Misses Smith	6	6	0
Anonymous	3	3	0
Miss B. C. Staley		10	0
Miss H. M. Sturge	5	5	0
Miss G. H. Kemeys-Tynte	2	2	0
Girton College W.S.S.	10	0	0
Mr. R. F. Cholmeley	10	0	0
Miss Druce	5	0	0
Mr. C. E. C. Jones	2	2	0
Mrs. Garrett Jones	2	2	0
Miss T. Gosse	2	2	0
Mr. A. Hutchinson	1	1	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
Mrs. V. Saunders, per Hull W.S.S.		1	0
Miss Ethel Brooks	10	0	0
Miss M. Harwood		10	0
Edinburgh W.S.S.			
Miss S. E. S. Mair	1	0	0
Miss Loudon	1	0	0
Miss Alice Low	1	10	0
The Misses Bell		10	0
Miss Alice Crompton		10	0
Miss Kinghorn		2	6
Miss Muter Napier		2	6
The Misses Foggo		5	0
Miss Nona Stewart		2	6
Miss Begbie		10	0
Miss J. R. M. Kemp		10	0
Miss Alice Smith		2	6
Miss I. O. Ford	1	0	0
Rotherfield and Mark Cross W.S.S.	1	1	0
Mrs. Corbett Ashby	1	1	0
Mrs. Ella Corbett	5	5	0
Miss Dorothea M. Ford		2	6
Mrs. Herbert Reeves		2	6
Mrs. W. Senior Smith		2	0
Dr. F. Sinclair McDade		7	6
Working W.S.S.	8	0	0
Miss B. Neville	1	0	0
A Friend	50	0	0
Miss M. Dorothea Jordan		2	6
Bedford W.S.S.		15	0
Miss Annie H. Blomefield		10	0
Stanley King (a small boy)			3
	£5,078	12	10

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1913	1,159	2	7
Received, February 11th to March 2nd—			
Subscriptions.			
Madame Loppé	2	0	0
Mrs. Lucy Hall		2	6
Mrs. A. E. Macfarlane	1	0	0
Mrs. Brooks		2	6
Mrs. Charles Dixon	10	10	0
Anthony and Mrs. Alsop		2	0
Miss Hilda Pope		3	6
Miss D. Willis		10	0
Miss W. G. Fraser		2	6
Miss Hilda Blackman Dash		5	0
Mrs. Gilbert Walker	1	1	0
Mrs. F. Wilberforce		5	0
Miss E. J. Sloane		10	6
Madame Paul Hamélius		5	0
Mrs. A. M. Stark		5	0
Mrs. Marie Reade		5	0
Mr. Arthur Reade		5	0
Miss Mary O. Reynolds		5	0
Mrs. Robie Uniacke	1	0	0
Miss R. M. Edmonds (1913 and 1914)		2	0
Miss A. M. Royden	1	1	0
Mrs. M. S. Gibb		5	0
Mrs. Holme	2	2	0
A Sister	10	10	0
Mrs. Russell Upcher	1	1	0
Miss Henty		2	6
Mrs. Johnson		2	0
Miss M. A. Greswell		2	0
Miss B. R. Bruce	1	1	0
Miss A. Garrett	5	0	0
Miss G. F. Swithinbank		2	6
Miss F. A. Geoghegan		5	0
Mrs. Gerard		5	0
Mrs. Samuel	1	1	0
Miss K. M. Pearce Gould		10	0
Mrs. Vaughan		6	0
Mrs. F. Richardson	1	1	0
Miss M. L. Finnis		2	6
Mrs. Wild		2	6
Miss J. Thornycroft		1	0
Miss Mabel Saw		6	0
Mrs. T. B. Bruce	1	1	0
Mrs. L. Pilsbury		10	0

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Subscriptions to Information Bureau.

	£	s.	d.
Miss L. C. Jones	1	1	0
Mrs. Berney		10	6
Miss P. G. Fawcett		10	6

Donation to Education Campaign.

Mr. F. Priestman	5	5	0

Donations.

Mrs. George Booth	10	10	0
Miss Anne Hassard		4	0
Anonymous, per Miss C. Comins	10	0	0
Mrs. Seyd	1	0	0
Per Miss D. Mason, for South Bucks By-election—			
Miss Courtauld	10	0	0
Mrs. Green		2	0
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Collection at Hazelmere ...		1	7
Collection at West Wycombe		7	11
Collection at High Wycombe	4	6	10
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Collection at Burnham ...		9	10
Collection at Gerrards Cross	1	5	6
Collection at Wycombe Marsh		3	8
Collection at Coris End ...		9	0
Collection at Beaconsfield...	1	7	11
Collection at Slough ...	2	11	8
Collection at Marlow ...		11	10
Collection at Lane End ...		13	8
Mid-Bucks Society		7	6
Gerrards Cross Society ...	2	11	0
Sister Marian Briathwaite ...	1	0	0

Affiliation Fees.

Inverness W.S.S.	1	10	0
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Heywood W.S.S. ...		12	6
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Perth W.S.S.	2	0	0
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Topsham W.S.S.		8	9
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THE LATE MR. EDWARD WRIGHT.

It will be within the remembrance of our readers that Sir Almroth Wright, M.D., and Lady Wright suffered the great sorrow in October last of the death, under more than usually tragic circumstances, of their eldest son, Mr. Edward Wright, of Trinity College, Dublin. We knew that the cause of Women's Suffrage had a warm and energetic friend in Mr. Wright; but it was with peculiar feelings of gratitude and emotion that we heard, informally, not long after his lamented death, that he had left the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies a legacy of £500. A formal communication on the subject has now been received from his executors, and we are therefore able to make the generous legacy known to our readers and to the public generally.

MISLEADING JOURNALISM.

A considerable number of people have apparently been disturbed by a paragraph in the *Daily Mail*, announcing as "an open secret," that "the Women's Suffrage Societies are helping to finance Mr. Tom Mann's mission to South Africa." It is amazing that any human being should believe the rubbish circulated by virulently Anti-suffrage papers of the *Daily Mail* type. But since some apparently do, we can assure them that so far as the biggest Women's Suffrage Society in the Kingdom is concerned, the "open secret" is an open lie.

VETERAN SUFFRAGISTS' DIAMOND WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Haslam, who are celebrating their diamond wedding this month, were married in Cork, March 20th, 1854. Mr. Haslam, who is in his 89th year, is the oldest known Suffragist in Ireland, having been convinced by reading the chapter on the "Rights of Women" in Herbert Spencer's "Social Status" about the year 1852. Mrs. Haslam, who is just 85 years of age, gave valuable help in the time of the famine of 1846, and did much work in connection with relief works, soup kitchens, the formation of the ocean penny postage, the Olive Leaf Circles (Peace), &c. All through her married life she has laboured in various educational and social reforms, and she has been Hon. Sec. of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association from 1898 down to the present year, when she was elected President. Mrs. Haslam has just now succeeded in starting a joint committee of more than a dozen different societies, working for the betterment of the condition of women, especially in the first instance, for the election of Women Poor Law Guardians in June.

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT OF THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT.

A series of addresses has been arranged at the Collegium House (92, St. George's Square, S.W.), on Wednesday evenings, beginning on March 25th. The speakers have been asked to speak on any aspect of the Woman's Movement, about which they have something they want to say from a definitely religious point of view. The series will begin with an address from Miss Royden, and among the speakers on other evenings are the Bishop of Kensington, Rev. W. Temple, Mrs. Paget, Canon Simpson, Dr. Greville Macdonald, Rev. R. C. Gillie, Rev. A. E. N. Simms, Miss Hay-Cooper, Dr. Helen Hanson. At each meeting there will be intercession and discussion. The room is not large, and tickets should be applied for at once.

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News from the Societies and Federations.

London Society—*continued.*

ROTHERHITHE.—Miss M. Goddard was invited to address the I.L.P. on February 4th. All present became "Friends." Resolutions passed unanimously, and delegates were appointed for Albert Hall Demonstration.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—On February 12th a debate was held at the Lecture Hall, 26, Moreton Street, under the auspices of the Liberal Association, between Miss Mildred Ransom and Miss Mabel Smith. Mr. E. Burch was in the chair. Many questions were put at question time. A vote was carried in favour of Women's Suffrage.

On February 18th Mrs. Rackham addressed a large audience at St. Michael's Schools, Ebury Square, on Women's Suffrage, by invitation of the Vicar. Much interest was evinced, and a great many questions asked and answered.

EAST ST. PANCRAS.—Drawing-room meetings were held at 187, Camden Road on February 12th and 26th, by kind permission of Mrs. Davies, among the speakers being Mrs. Rogers, Miss Deverell, and Miss Easther.

Miss Cockle addressed a meeting of the National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks at 65, Kentish Town Road on February 24th. Six "Friends" were gained. A resolution in favour of universal suffrage for men and women was passed by a large majority.

SOUTH ST. PANCRAS.—A well-attended meeting was held at 51, Gordon Square on January 30th. Hostess, Mrs. Herbert Rendel—Chair, Miss Lidgett, P.L.G.—Speaker, Mrs. Ford Smith. The resolution calling on the Government to introduce a measure for Women's Suffrage was carried *nem. con.* Twenty Friends of Women's Suffrage enrolled—Three members—Ten copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

Miss Young addressed a meeting at the Kingsway Hall, held in connection with the B.W.T.A., on February 17th. Twenty-three "Friends" were enrolled, and two members joined.

Mrs. Ferguson very kindly gave a drawing-room meeting at 24, Wolrun Place on February 19th. Five members joined, and twelve "Friends" were enrolled. Six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

West Midland Federation.

BROMSGROVE AND DISTRICT.—A very enjoyable evening was spent at the Assembly Rooms on Thursday, February 5th, when Mrs. Hugh Dixon (President of the Society) explained some lantern slides representing "Women at Work." Mrs. J. Walford spoke on "The Right Use of the Municipal Vote," and the proceedings concluded with a performance of the duologue, "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky."

COLWALL AND LEDBURY.—On February 26th two meetings were held in the Ledbury Town Hall, at both of which Miss Helen Fraser spoke. In the afternoon the chair was taken by Canon Bulkeley, and in the evening Mr. Curtis Eyre presided. Mr. E. D. Morel also spoke. A telegram was received from Lady Henry Somerset, President of the Society, regretting her unavoidable absence. A resolution demanding a Government measure for Women's Suffrage was carried unanimously.

REDDITCH.—On February 24th a public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall. The chair was taken by Canon Wilson, in the unavoidable absence of the Dean of Worcester, and Miss Helen Fraser and Miss M. M. Williams spoke. Fifteen new members were enrolled.

WORCESTER.—On February 5th the sixth annual meeting was held at 14, The College, by the kind permission of Canon and Mrs. Wilson, when Mrs. Moore Ede (President) took the chair. The report showed that a great deal of useful work had been done during the past year—fifty new members enrolled, and a large increase in the number of "Friends." Miss M. M. Williams has been obliged to resign the Hon. Secretaryship, much to the regret of all the members, as she has undertaken the duties of Hon. Secretary to the Federation. Miss Horne was elected in her place. The meeting terminated with an address from Miss Thurston. A very successful "Friends'" social was held at the Trinity Hall on February 3rd, organised by Miss Holyoake. Mrs. Wilson was hostess, and after tea there was an entertainment and a short Suffrage speech. Seven new members were enrolled, and eighteen "Friends" signed cards.

WELLINGTON.—The annual meeting was held on February 12th in the Bulles Hall. Mrs. Shepherd presided. Mrs. Clemson, in her report, stated that much progress had been made during the year. The balance-sheet was presented and passed, and the election of Officers and Committee took place. An address was given by Miss Isabel Basnett on "The Industrial Position of Women in England to-day," and recitations were given by Miss Barber and Miss O'Keefe.

North-Western Federation.

LANCASTER.—A large public meeting was held on February 21st in the Ashton Hall. Miss Rome of Melling took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Henry Fawcett, L.L.D., and Miss Muriel Matters. A resolution was passed, demanding a government measure for the enfranchisement of women, a good collection was taken, and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Mrs. Fawcett was supported by many well-known ladies in the district. The local papers both gave splendid reports of the meetings.

BARROW.—February 23rd.—Mrs. Henry Fawcett and Miss Muriel Matters held a most successful meeting in the Queen's Hall. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, a full room. Dr. J. T. Williams presided. Much literature was sold, including six dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE. There was a good collection, and nearly 300 tickets of admission were sold. Several new members joined. A resolution demanding a Government measure for Women's Suffrage was carried unanimously.

COCKERMOUTH.—Tuesday, February 24th.—A large meeting in the Public Hall, Cockermouth, by far the largest indoor meeting that has been held on behalf of Women's Suffrage.—Principal speaker, Mrs. Fawcett; Chairman, Rev. D. M. McLaren; collection, £3 8s. 6d. Forty-six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Eleven signatures on membership cards. New feature, a Suffrage song by a gentleman. Resolution passed without opposition, "That this meeting demands a Government measure for Women's Suffrage."

MORECAMBE.—February 25th.—A meeting was held at the Albert Hall. On the platform were men and women representatives of various public bodies and interests. The Mayor, accompanied by the Mayoress, presided, giving an address, in which, on behalf of the town, he welcomed Mrs. Fawcett. He proposed a resolution demanding a Government measure of the Franchise for Women, which was seconded by Mr. Banks in a forcible speech, and carried unanimously. Miss Olive Downham, our youngest Suffragist, gaily decorated with the colours, presented Mrs. Fawcett with a bouquet, also in the N. U. colours. Mrs. Downham, the President, spoke in favour of the Suffrage, and proposed the vote of thanks to Mrs. Fawcett, which Miss Smith seconded.

CARNFORTH.—February 26th.—An enthusiastic and well-attended meeting was held in the afternoon in Victoria Hall.—Speaker, Mrs Henry Fawcett, Chair, Mrs. Gandy.—Resolution demanding a Government measure for Women's Suffrage unanimously carried.

The secretaries all through the district feel that Mrs. Fawcett's visit has done much good. There have been larger and more enthusiastic meetings than have been held before all along the line. It has been very encouraging, showing an increased interest in the cause by both men and women. The Press has been particularly favourable, and has given good space. The *Barrow Guardian* gave half a column of editorial notes, as well as an excellent report.

CARLISLE.—February 7th.—The Cake and Candy Sale, organised by Mrs. Crompton, made £9 14s., which was even better than we thought it would be.

February 25th.—The third meeting on "The State and the Child" dealt with education, and was very well attended. Miss Gem presided, and the speakers were Miss Bevan, headmistress of the Carlisle County High School for Girls; Miss Irving, Headmistress of Brook Street Girls' School; and Mr. H. K. Campbell, Vice-Chairman of the local Education Authority. All the speakers were listened to with great interest, and we felt it was a most successful meeting in every way.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation.

BRIGHTON.—The Rev. W. R. Colville presided at a demonstration in the Hove Town Hall on February 16th, when Lady Betty Balfour proposed a resolution demanding a Government measure, Miss Royden and Mr. Barton, M.P., seconding. THE COMMON CAUSE sold out, 103 "Friends" signed, and £10 4s. 3d. was collected. The sale of tickets covered expenses. On the platform were Lady Maud Parry, Mr. Jennings, L.L.B., who moved and seconded the vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers, clergymen, and representatives of the local Women's Franchise Club, W. F. L., M. L. W. S., Qui Vive Corps, F. C. L., C.W.S.S., C. & U.W.F.A., L.G.U., I.L.P., W.C.G., W.L.G.S., and B.W.T.A. Miss Lipscombe opened with an organ recital.

Miss Churchman spoke at the Women's Franchise Club on "Women in Ancient Rome, and their position to-day." Miss Coker presiding, and Mrs. Duncan Harris on "Economic Disabilities of Women," Miss Bennett presiding. Mrs. Timpany has addressed "Friends." The Speakers' Class meets weekly.

CAMBERLEY.—Mrs. Cowmeadow spoke on February 10th, on "The Religious Aspect of the Women's Movement," the Rev. J. H. Watson as Chairman. On the 24th Mrs. Cooper spoke at Mrs. Davies's on "Parliament and Women in Industry." After the annual meeting at Darracott's Tea Rooms, on March 3rd, Mrs. Harley spoke on "Friends' Work, and the Active Service League." Each time the audience was good.

CRONDALL.—Miss Mungean spoke at the Old Club on Jan 21st, discussion following. Several "Friends" signed.

CROYDON.—The Rev. A. J. Waldron presided at a debate in the Horniman Hall in connection with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. Our speaker won. Good weekly meetings took place at 34a, The Arcade, last month. On February 23rd Mrs. Ackroyd spoke on the Minority Report.

FARNHAM.—Seventeen attended the Albert Hall Demonstration, including two delegates; £10 14s. 6d. was sent to the Mandate Fund. The Demonstration and Council meeting were described at a members' meeting on February 23rd. Three study circles are held, on Care Committees, School Clinics, and The Child and the State.

FLEET.—Miss Martin spoke on the latter subject at the Annual Meeting in the Wesleyan School, on February 18th, Mrs. Griffiths Baker presiding.

GUILDFORD.—On February 11th Miss Penrose Philp spoke at Blackheath on the Poor Law. Two lectures were given at Cranleigh on Mentally Deficient Children and Infant Mortality. On the 26th Mrs. Cooper spoke at Stoughton.

LIMPSFIELD.—The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell lectured on "Schools for Mothers," at The Garth, on January 28th. On February 19th, 20th, and 21st, "The £12 Look" and "The Changeling" were acted for the funds. On February 28th Mr. Chapman lectured on the "The Commonwealth for Juvenile Delinquents."

LITTLEHAMPTON.—Mrs. Bonwick spoke on White Slavery, on January 30th, the B.W.T.A. co-operating. On February 16th Sir Harry Johnston and Mrs. Zangwill adressed a large meeting, some members and forty "Friends" joining. On February 26th Mrs. Russell entertained the Press Secretaries and the Divisional Committee, Miss Harris reading a paper. That Committee sent £5 to the Albert Hall from a jumble sale. Mrs. Russell addressed a meeting at Storrington, the Dove Keighleys giving tea after. Thirty "Friends" signed.

NEWCHURCH.—The Rev. F. I. Bamford presided in the Church Room on February 5th, when Miss Marsh spoke. A Suffrage resolution was carried unanimously.

PORTSMOUTH.—Mrs. Leathes spoke on "Votes and Mothers" in the Suffrage Rooms on January 29th, Mrs. Lapthorn presiding. On February 6th Dr. Marion Phillips spoke ably on "Infant Mortality," Miss Whillier in the chair.

SHANKLIN.—Mr. Baillie Weaver spoke on "Women under English Law," Mr. Marsh presiding. £2 5s. was collected.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Miss Boswell spoke at the Art Gallery on the 13th on "The Feminist Movement." On the 20th two café chantants were held, Miss Kennedy giving a Suffrage monologue in costume, and Miss Dutton and the Hon. Secretary, C.L.W.S., speaking. On the 27th Miss Heard spoke on "The Mental Factor in the Accomplishment of Purpose." On March 6th Mrs. Dutton spoke on "The State and the Home," especially Housing. Collections were made, and forty-seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Miss Dutton (Organiser) will address various Societies.

WORTHING.—Mrs. Duncan Harris spoke on "Women's Economic Disabilities," Mrs. Timpany on "Industrial Disabilities," on February 10th and 17th. On the 24th Miss Wright spoke on the National Union Report and Council. Mrs. Stubbs, Miss Warren, and Mrs. Thompson were hostesses. On the 20th Mrs. Gardner Robertson lectured on "Byways in Italy" with lantern slides, Mrs. Ayton Gostling presiding. Miss Trapp addressed "Friends" on "The Albert Hall and Trafalgar Square Demonstrations" on the 26th.

Press Correspondents please note that, owing to the increase of Societies, Miss Clarke, of Church Crookham, is now Press Secretary for Hampshire, and Miss Harris, of Lindfield, is appointed for Sussex, Miss Atkinson retaining the Surrey work only *pro tem.*

Bournemouth Society.

The monthly At Home, February 10th, with Miss Fonblanque as Hostess, was well attended. Speeches by Mrs. P. Shaw's class were much enjoyed. Good collection.

The trial by jury of Women's Suffrage, at St. James's Institute, on February 19th, was a great success; Mr. G. G. Kent as Judge. Mr. Holmes appeared for the prosecution, representing the B. & S. Literary Society; Mr. R. S. Grey for the defence, representing the local Branch, N.U.W.S.S.

February 20th—Canford Cliff—The local Branch joined the C.U.W.F.A. in a meeting. Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Percy Boulnois were the speakers. There was a large and attentive audience, and new members were gained.

February 20th, 8 p.m.—Lady Frances Balfour debated with Miss Gladys Pott, and won by a 125 majority for Women's Suffrage. St. Peter's Hall was crowded, and the speeches much appreciated. Lady Frances received two lovely bouquets. The Rev. G. A. Johnston made an impartial Chairman. On this occasion the Church League, the N.U., and the "Anti's" got up the meeting between them.

Central Counties Federation.

BIRMINGHAM.—Three Trade Unions have been addressed during the month, and resolutions obtained. A fourth Union voluntarily passed a Suffrage resolution. Seventeen men's organisations sent delegates to the Albert Hall. Two big meetings for "Friends" were held by Mrs. Harrison Barrow and Miss Kirby. Miss Barrow has held a series of Suffrage study meetings for working women and girls.

Our Town Hall meeting, which was attended by nearly 3,000 people, must have astonished the "Anti's" who were present, and who so often assert that interest in Women's Suffrage is practically dead. A suggestion from Dr. Mary Sturge that the men and women on the platform who held degrees should attend in their gowns produced a fine effect. A sum of £40 was realised, after expenses were paid, and 230 "Friends'" cards were signed. Twenty-nine new members have joined during the month. A sum totalling £109 was sent from members of the Society for the Albert Hall Mandate Fund.

OLTON.—The annual public meeting was held at the Kineton Road Schools on February 20th. Chairman, the Rev. Newman Hall. Miss Matheson spoke on "Women and Labour," and moved the following resolution, seconded by Dr. Butler, and carried unanimously: "That in view of the great number of women workers and the importance that their opinion on labour legislation should be obtained, this meeting desires to urge the introduction of a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women."

RUGBY.—Miss Matheson addressed a very good attendance on January 27th at the Church House on "Protection of Children"; Miss Brown in the chair. On February 10th Miss Irene Cox concluded the series of five lectures on "The Child and the State" by speaking on "How our Industrial Laws Help Women and Children." Mrs. David, wife of the Headmaster of Rugby School, was in the chair.

The annual meeting of the Society took place on February 18th; Mrs. Steel (President) in the chair. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Walding, read a favourable report, showing a large increase in the Society, which now numbers 148 members and 108 "Friends." The Hon. Treasurer, Miss Leeson, also reported a satisfactory balance in hand. The President, Vice-Presidents, and Committee (who retire automatically) were all re-elected. Accounts of the Council Meeting and the Albert Hall Demonstration were given by the Rugby delegates, and the meeting concluded by the presentation to the Hon. Secretary of a very beautiful book in appreciation of her year's work for the Society.

SOLIHULL.—On February 11th a drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. English's, Woodlea, Dorridge. Chairman, Miss V. Thurstan; Speaker, Miss Irene Cox, on "Women and Children in Factories and Workshops, and How to Help Them." There were about thirty present, and a collection of £1 11s. 9d. was made for the funds of the Society. Our contribution to the Mandate Fund was £5 10s. 6d. The sum of £2 2s. was also sent to the Federation.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—On February 12th our Society had a most successful dramatic entertainment and white elephant sale. More than two hundred tickets were sold, and the acting of Miss Hamilton's "How the Vote was Won" caused the audience to weep with laughter. We are very much indebted to Mr. G. Thornton and Mr. E. Guy (Men's League), and to Mrs. Loxton and Miss Alan Williams (C.U.W.F.A.), and to professionals of no Suffrage Society at all, for their help in this affair. Our Society still continues to ply the Liberal candidate with questions at meetings.

COVENTRY.—February 9th.—"How the Vote was Won" was performed in the Corn Exchange by our kind friends from Leamington, who acquitted themselves admirably under the direction of Miss G. F. Millar. Afterwards Miss Muriel Matters spoke, and it only needs to be said that the audience went away with a deeper reverence for the Woman's Movement than they had ever felt before. Mr. E. B. Lemon took the chair. About £6 profit was realised.

February 15th.—A large meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen, at which Miss Rogers spoke. Two members and forty-three "Friends" signed. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

February 17th.—Meeting of Workers' Union at Men's Institute—Resolution carried unanimously—Twenty-three "Friends."

February 20th.—Meeting of the Toolmakers' Society—About 120 present—Great discussion—Two dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

On other dates Miss Rogers has also addressed meetings of the Railway Clerks' Association, St. Michael's Baptist Women's Guild, and Cow Lane Adult School with good results. Six more Trade Union Societies have passed the Suffrage resolution. At one special meeting it was carried unanimously after a good discusison, when about four hundred members were present. During the month sixteen new members and 114 "Friends" have been enrolled. We are to have the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Rackham on March 26th. The Wesley Guild has arranged a debate for March 12th. Two delegates attended the Council Meeting and the Demonstration in London.

Scottish Federation.

Headquarters were mainly occupied in the first half of February with arranging the deputation of men's organisations to the Prime Minister. Forty-nine Societies worked at securing representatives from their areas, and, in all, seventy-six men's organisations in Scotland agreed to send delegates. When the Prime Minister persisted in refusing to receive this deputation, all but a few of the delegates still came up to London and took part in the great Demonstration at the Albert Hall. Before the meeting a dinner (by kind invitation of a few Scottish ladies) was held for Scottish delegates and friends at the Piccadilly Hotel. Fifty-two were present, Miss S. E. S. Mair graciously acting as chief hostess, with Mr. William Adamson, M.P., the representative of the Fife and Kinross Miners on one hand, and Mr. Macallan, representing the Inverness Town Council, on the other. There is some probability that action will be taken in Scotland to protest publicly against the Prime Minister's refusal to receive so large and representative a deputation from the North. Our Organisers have been busy in North, East, and West, Miss Bury in Sutherlandshire, Mrs. Streeter and Mrs. Sime, in endeavouring to gather in the fruits of the election in South Lanark, Miss Craigie in Falkirk.

We are now occupied in the Central Office with preparations for the Federation Annual Meeting at the end of March, at which we hope to welcome representatives from all our sixty-three Societies. The Leith Burghs Election, the outstanding political event of the month, has been fully reported on elsewhere.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, has received a most generous response to her appeal in THE COMMON CAUSE. The great aim is to raise a Thousand Guinea Fund to form the central working basis for a Suffrage campaign through the length and breadth of Scotland. Through Dr. Inglis, the first instalment—a gift of £100 from a friend who wishes to remain anonymous—has been received. Who will be the next? Other ten such warm-hearted supporters and the fund is established. From the Albert Hall Demonstration was received the handsome sum of over £44 earmarked for our Federation, and many other sums of varying amounts have also been received. The Treasurer wishes to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has contributed, whether individually or as members of Societies. Mrs. Laurie is also very anxious that, in addition to the General Fund, an Election Fund should be started, quite on non-party lines, so that help may be given all over Scotland when it is needed—which will be ere long.

CUPAR-FIFE.—A meeting for women was held in Miss Elder's Tea-rooms on February 12th, when there was a large attendance of members and "Friends." A moving address was delivered by Mrs. Hunter, of the National Vigilance Association of Scotland.

DORNOCH.—On January 23rd an interesting debate on "Woman's Suffrage" took place in the Council Chamber, Carnegie Library. Mr. John Murray, Balloan, presided, and Miss Murray, the Secretary, took the affirmative, Mrs. MacIntyre taking the negative. The meeting was very largely attended, and both ladies spoke very well. Twenty-three voted for Miss Murray, and twenty-one for Mrs. MacIntyre, but, unfortunately, the large majority did not vote, although the interest in the movement is greatly increased.

DUNFERMLINE.—The chief work of the Society during the last two months has been in approaching the various men's organisations with a view to their sending delegates to the proposed deputation to Mr. Asquith. Though several Societies declared themselves in entire sympathy with the movement, only one—Fife and Kinross Miners' Association—actually elected a delegate.

On December 12th a members' meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, at which tea was first served, and then an interesting address given by Dr. Elsie Inglis on "The Duties of Members of Suffrage Societies." A collection amounting to £1 3s. 3d. was taken to defray the costs of the meeting.

Through the Suffrage Society, there has been formed a Joint Committee of Women's Societies in Dunfermline, to promote and further the interests of women in public work. It is hoped in this way to strengthen the position of all the Societies interested—by co-operation.

EDINBURGH.—February 1st.—Miss Alice Low spoke at the Melbourne Hall, under the auspices of the Central Branch of the Independent Labour Party, on "Women's Votes and How to Get Them." There was a large and most interested audience, and thirty-four "Friends" were enrolled.

February 6th.—Office meeting, 4.30 p.m.—Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., on "The Election Fighting Fund Policy of the National Union." Very good meeting, and a number of questions asked. Chair, Miss Low—Fourteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

February 7th.—Public meeting in the Institute, Pumpherston—Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.—Small but interested audience—Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

February 9th.—Public meeting—Institute, East Calder—Speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A.—Crowded meeting and most enthusiastic audience—49 "Friends" enrolled—Twenty-three copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold, and all badges sold out. Same evening—Debating Society formed in connection with the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage. A preliminary meeting was held in the Office at 8 p.m. Hon. Sec., George Nicolson, Esq.—Hon. Treas., Mrs. Thomson.

February 10th.—Deputation to Leith Town Council. The deputation consisted of Miss Pressley-Smith, Mrs. Scott (Hon. Sec., Leith Branch), Mrs. Vyner (Press Sec., Leith Branch); introduced by Councillor Clarice Macnab. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was passed.

February 13th.—Office meeting, 4.30 p.m.—Speaker, Miss Frances Simson, M.A., on "Mrs. Hannah More and Education." Small but interested audience. Two new members gained, and fourteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. After this date Miss Lisa Gordon was in charge of the election work in Leith Burghs, a full account of which has already been given. A great deal of help was given by the Edinburgh Office, and Miss Low spoke several times daily in Leith.

February 17th.—Meeting of Railway Women's Guild, Masonic Hall, Easter Road, at 7.30. Mrs. Shaw McLaren kindly took Miss Lisa Gordon's place, and spoke on "Women's Suffrage—the Need of the Hour." Very good meeting. Seventeen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

February 20th.—Office meeting, 4.30 p.m.—Speaker, Miss Alice Low on "How the National Union Demonstrated in London." Chair, Mrs. Purves—Interested audience—Eight copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

February 23rd.—The Debating Society met at 40, Shandwick Place at 8 p.m. An open discussion took place on "Why I am a Suffragist." Chair, Mrs. Purves. Very good meeting.

February 27th.—At 8 p.m.—Annual meeting of members in the Goold Hall, St. Andrew's Square. About two hundred present. Miss Mair, President, in the chair. Owing to so much business having to be discussed, there was no time for a speaker.

There were 564 copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold from this Office during February, and 504 disposed of at the Leith Burghs By-election.

GLASGOW.—February 6th.—Public meeting in Charing Cross Halls, at which Mrs. Hunter read a paper on "The Social Evil."

February 9th.—Debate in Bridgeton U.F. Church. Mrs. Rankin presided, and Miss Patrick was the chief speaker. A great many "Anti's" present, but Suffrage carried the meeting. Fourteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold, and one new member gained.

February 13th.—An Office At Home was held, at which Miss Allan spoke on "Temperance work and Women's Suffrage."

February 18th.—Debate at the Women's Friendly Society Club. Miss Stuart Paterson spoke for Suffrage; Mrs. Norris against. A majority were in favour of Suffrage.

February 20th.—The Glasgow Presbytery of the Church of Scotland received deputations from the Glasgow Society and the Anti-suffragists. The Suffragists were represented by Miss K. W. Lindsay, Miss Morrison, Miss Buchanan, and Mrs. Hunter, the last-named giving a most convincing speech. The "Anti" deputation consisted of the Countess of Glasgow, Mrs. Andrew Aitken, and Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, who was spokesman. The deputations were thanked by the Moderator, and the Presbytery resolved to postpone the discussion till the next meeting.

February 27th.—Miss Stuart Paterson read a paper on "Press Work," at the Office.

March 6th.—A public meeting was held in Charing Cross Halls. The Rev. James Barr gave a most instructive and original address on "Keeping Woman in her Proper Place."

The Junior Imperialist Club gave a whist drive in the Mulberry Hall, during which Miss Shakspere spoke on Suffrage.

Great disappointment has been caused by Mr. Asquith's refusal to receive the men's deputation. Much time, trouble, and money have been spent on it by the Society, but it has proved a good piece of propaganda work. It is very satisfactory that fourteen of the Societies were represented at the Albert Hall Meeting. During the month sixty-seven new members have joined, and 108 copies of THE COMMMON CAUSE were sold.

GREENOCK.—During the winter months the Society displayed great activity in getting in touch with the different men's organisations. As a result, proxy delegates from three different Societies attended the Albert Hall Demonstration. A resolution was sent from the Town Council, urging Mr. Asquith to bring in a Bill to enfranchise women, and a deputation which waited upon Mr. Godfrey P. Collins, M.P. for the Burgh, as to his attitude towards the position of women as voters under the proposed Scottish Home Rule Bill, drew from him the statement that he would be in favour of their inclusion in a wide franchise.

On February 24th there was a good attendance for the annual meeting. The annual report showed 161 members—an increase of over 50 during the year. Income showed a balance in favour of the Society of £13. Miss McGregor, one of the members, gave a most interesting account of her impressions of Women Suffrage in a Suffrage State of America.

INVERNESS.—A meeting of the Society was held in Queensgate Hotel on February 23rd, Mrs. Hunter, President, in the chair. Mrs. J. Fraser, who was recently elected to the Inverness Parish Council, gave an interesting account of her visit to Glasgow as a delegate to the conference of Parish Councils. She had been the only woman delegate among four hundred men. At the close of her speech she announced that Mrs. Hunter had been asked to stand for the Burgh School Board at the forthcoming election on March 27th. The news was received with great delight, and a Committee was formed to carry on a vigorous canvass on her behalf.

KELSO.—A well-attended business meeting was held on February 7th in Trinity U.F. Church Hall, Mrs. Mein, Craft House, presided, and Mrs. Fleming, Abbey Row, gave an interesting and succinct account of the Society's doings during the past year. Mrs. Mein submitted a very satisfactory financial report—

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(*Mr., Mrs. or other Title*)

Address.....

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Donations may be earmarked for the Election Fighting Fund and for any special purpose if donors particularly desire it, but the main object on this occasion is the raising of a large central fund for Headquarters, of which 20 per cent. will be devoted to the work of the London Society in the London area.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, and *crossed* "London County and Westminster Bank. Not Negotiable."

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income, £36 12s. 8d.; expenditure, £29 5s.; leaving a credit balance of £7 7s. 8d. After the election of office-bearers, tea was served, and later Dr. Inglis gave a most eloquent and stimulating address.

KILMALCOLM.—Miss Crompton spoke at a very successful cake and candy sale held on January 28th. Over £21 was realised. One member of the Committee has sent in twelve signed "Friends'" cards, all men. This Society has united with the Gourock Society to send THE COMMON CAUSE regularly to their member, Colonel Greig, M.P.

KILMARNOCK.—On January 15th Mrs. Philip Snowden addressed a crowded meeting on Women's Suffrage in a hall holding 850, our Hon. President, Lord Rowallan, presiding. Net profit from meeting—£10—was sent to Federation headquarters. The meeting helped our membership very much; it now stands at 132.

A musical and dramatic entertainment in the King's Theatre, February 2nd, was a great success in every way. Part of the proceeds were given to the local Working Girls' Club.

We have had lectures at the Suffrage Rooms on "The Child and the State" from Miss Shakspeare, "Sweating," Rev. Henry Brown, M.A.; and on "Old Kilmarnock" from Mrs. Walters Crawford.

LENZIE.—A meeting of this Society was held in the Public Hall on February 2nd, when two splendid paper on the second part of "The Child and the subject was "The Economics of Women's Suffrage," and Miss Young's, "The Ideals of Women's Suffrage." A discussion followed, and several gentlemen (non-members) present congratulated the Society most heartily on the excellence of the meeting.

LEVEN.—The third public meeting this winter was held on February 24th in the Masonic Hall. Mrs. Leathes addressed a large and very appreciative audience on "The Child and the State." The chair was taken by Colonel Sprot, of Stravithie, prospective Unionist candidate for East Fife, who declared himself in favour of a limited franchise for women. Many questions were asked; two new members enrolled; eighteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold; and a collection of £1 1s. taken.

A most successful members' and "Friends'" tea was held on February 5th. About fifty were present, and Dr. Alice Hutchison spoke on "Experiences in the Balkan War." Her address was most interesting and greatly appreciated. All present took handbills of the public meeting to distribute. A number of Suffrage calendars were sold, and the Suffrage Reading Club books given out for circulation.

ORCADIAN.—A meeting was held in the Albert Hotel, Kirkwall, Mr. J. W. Cursiter in the chair. Mrs. Baikie, of Tankerness, read an illuminating papers were read by two members. Miss Paton's State." Subsequently, members present engaged in an interesting debate bearing on the various phases of the question introduced by Mrs. Baikie, and at the close votes of thanks to the Essayist and Chairman were given.

PERTH.—The Society's activities in the beginning of February were largely absorbed in appealing to sixteen different men's organisations in the city and neighbourhood, and also to individuals, to support the February Demonstration in London. The result was, financially, a donation of £10 for the 'W.S. Mandate Fund from R. D. Pullar, Esq., a member of the Society; a promise from A. F. Whyte, Esq., Member for the City, to attend the Demonstration; and the consent of the Perth and District Trades and Labour Council to be represented by a proxy delegate.

On February 4th a very successful "Concert and Play" was carried out. The play items were, "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky" and "Alice in Ganderland."

On March 2nd an important debate took place on "Should the Parliamentary Franchise be Granted to Women?" The voting resulted in 124 for, and 68 against, leaving us a majority of 68. It has also been arranged that during this year THE COMMON CAUSE advertisement poster shall be displayed at the bookstall of the Perth Railway Station. Two members go week about to see that the poster is changed. Will all friends on travel when passing through Perth kindly ask for a copy of THE COMMON CAUSE?

STRANRAER.—A drawing-room meeting was held on February 19th, at 8 p.m., the hostess being Mrs. Dyer. Miss Paterson, of Newton Stewart, read a paper on "The Social Evolution of Woman," Mr. Dyer occupying the chair. The audience was composed entirely of Stranraer members, and was enthusiastic in its appreciation of the paper, which was a quite unusually able and literary one. The Whithorn Branch of the Society also held a drawing-room meeting on March 5th in the Temperance Hotel, Whithorn. A large proportion of the members resident in Whithorn were present, and tea was served. Miss Smith, member of the Committee for the district, occupied the chair, and the Hon. Secretary gave a short account of the growth of the Society in the county and the work in prospect. Discussion as to the carrying on of the work of Whithorn followed, two additional Committee members being proposed for this district. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and literature distributed. The Suffrage paragraph sent by the Press Secretary of the Scottish Federation has been accepted by both of the local papers.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY before the announcement is to be inserted. Notices must be addressed to the Sub-Editor.

London.

MARCH 13.

Balham—Corner of Omerley and Balham High Road—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Ellen Walshe 8.15

Islington—Barnsbury Hall, Upper Street—Suffrage Club—Meeting 8.0—10.0

Westminster Palace Hotel—Victoria Street—London Society's Reception—Speakers, Miss Courtney, Sir William Chance; Miss Hodge on "Women's Suffrage and South Africa" 3.30—6.15

MARCH 16.

Finchley—Hamilton Hall, Hendon Lane—First Annual Meeting—Speaker, Miss Helen Ward—Music and Recitations—Tea

Hampstead—Stanfield Hall, High Street—Meeting for "Friends" of W.S.—Speaker, Mrs. George Morgan—Chair, Councillor A. B. Weaver—Suffrage Duologue—Refreshments 8.15

Richmond—Dunottar House, King's Road—General Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Lamport—Speaker, Miss A. Maude Royden—Chair, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A. 3.0

Stepney—Ratcliff Settlement—Meeting and Entertainment 8.0

MARCH 17.

Finchley—1, Cavendish Avenue, Church End—Study Circle 3.30

MARCH 18.

Chelsea—69, Cadogan Square—Hostess, Miss Lily Antrobus—Debate opened by Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G.—Opposer, Mrs. Wentworth Stanley—Chair, Mr. Frank Marshall 9.0

MARCH 19.

Dulwich—"Danbeck," Dulwich Village—Hostess, Mrs. and Miss Jebens—Speaker, Mrs. Garrett Jones—Chair, Miss Jebens

Wimbledon—9, Ridgeway Gardens—Study Circle—Leader, Miss Pares 5.0

MARCH 20.

Islington—Barnsbury Hall, Upper Street—Suffrage Club—Meeting 8.0—10.0

South Woodford—"Tresweeta," Churchfields—Hostess, Mrs. Chapman—Speaker, Miss Helen Ward—Chair, Mrs. E. W. George 3.30

Westminster Palace Hotel—Victoria Street—London Society's Reception—Speakers, Miss Horniman, Mr. Robert Cholmeley, and the Rev. B. S. Berlyn—Chair, Miss C. M. Eve 3.30—6.15

The Provinces.

MARCH 13.

Budleigh Salterton—Public Rooms—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham 8.0

Limpley Stoke—Schoolroom—Speaker, Miss H. Fraser—Chair, the Rev. Morgan Powell 5.15

Peaslake—Schoolroom—Speaker, Miss Constance Aston and Miss M. Baker 8.0

Saltash—Star Hall—Speaker, Miss M. Matters 8.0

Sheffield—Montgomery Hall—Public Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss G. Cooke—Chair, Mr. J. H. Davidson 8.0

Southampton—Art Gallery—Mrs. Palmer on "Race Culture." 8.0

MARCH 14.

Birmingham—Mrs. Ring will address the Toolmakers 8.30

MARCH 15.

Darlington—North Road Brotherhood—Miss Lucas on "The Women's Movement" 3.0

MARCH 16.

Birmingham—Quinton Mothers—Speaker, Miss Preston 3.15

Harborne Institute—Workers' Educational Association—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Cambridge—Skating Rink, Magrath Avenue—Suffrage Play, "Britannia's Daughters," by Fanny Johnson 7.30

Croydon—34a, The Arcade, High Street—The Rev. M. T. Dodds on "Boys and Family Life" 3.30

Dewsbury—The Café, Church Street—Mr. R. Parkinson on "Women and Temperance Legislation"—Chair, Mr. W. B. Crawshaw 7.30

Halleng and Woodham—Public Meeting

Hamilton—Town Hall—Speaker, Miss M. Matters—Chair, the Rev. J. M'Callum Robertson, M.A. 8.0

Manchester—Parker's Restaurant, St. Ann's Square—At Home—Speaker, Mr. E. Neville Smith 4.0—5.30

Hulme Suffrage Club—York Street Temperance Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Norbury 8.0

Wallasey and Wirral—"Heswall," Deeside Assembly Rooms—Debate 8.0

York—10, Museum Street—Railway Women's Guild—Speaker, Mrs. Meyer 2.30

MARCH 17.

Barnsley—Heelis Street Schoolroom—Jumble Sale 4.0

Birmingham—Saltley Women's Labour League—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0

Hay Mills Adult School—Speaker, Miss Kirby 8.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—At Home 3.0—5.0

Hastings—Suffrage Club, 7, Havelock Road—Speaker, Mrs. Timpany, B.A. 4.30

Malton—Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Corbett Ashby—Chair, Mrs. Daniel 7.30

Newcastle—30, Grosvenor Road—Working Party and Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Jones—Miss Margaret Weddell, M.A. on "The Progress of the Women's Movement." 7.0

Norton Malton—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Low—Speaker, Mrs. Corbett Ashby—Chair, Mrs. Daniel 3.30

Pontypool—St. James's Hall—At Home—Hostess, Mrs. Pratt—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G. 3.30

Worthing—1, Warwick Street—Hostess, Miss Roberts—Miss Whiteley on "Improvements Effected in the Law when Women have the Vote" 3.30

MARCH 18.

Barnes—Althorp House—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Lionel Munday—Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., on "The Legal Disabilities of Wives and Mothers"—Chair, Miss Attwell 3.0

Birmingham—Drill Hall, The Cotteridge—Speaker, Miss S. M. Fry, M.A.—Chair, Councillor Fryer 8.0

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Oldbury Women's Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 7.30
Bournemouth—Princes Hall—Grand Hotel—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford—Chair, the Rev. D. Adderley 4.0
Brighton—Women's Franchise Club, 4, New Road—Meeting for Friends of Women's Suffrage—Speakers, Miss A. S. Verrall, Miss F. de G. Merrifield 8.30
Cowbridge—Town Hall—Speaker, Miss Foxley, M.A.—Chair, Councillor C. M. Davies 8.0
Croydon and Purley—St. Augustine's Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett—Chair, Miss T. E. Clark 8.0
Cuckfield—Queen's Hall—Mrs. Alys Russel, B.A., on "Maternity Schools for Mothers" 3.15
Dorking—Miss Irene Cox on "Infant Mortality"
Gateshead—Bewick Hall, High West Street—Mrs. Price, M.A., on "Patriotism and the Vote"—Soloist, Miss Denton 2.30
Hexham—White's Café—Annual Meeting—Speaker, Miss St. John—Chair, Mrs. Pumphrey 3.15
Manchester—Milton Hall, Deansgate—Dr. Sloan Chesser, M.B., on "The Mother and the State" 3.0
Winchester—Oddfellows' Hall, St. George's Street—Miss Tite (Criminal Law Amendment Committee) on "Separation and Maintenance Orders" 5.30

MARCH 19.
Brighton—55, Old Steine—Y.M.C.A. Debating Society—Subject: "Has England Gained by the Suffrage Movement?"—For: Mrs. Abbott—Against: Mrs. H. Norris—Chair, Councillor Skinner 8.0
Hindhead—"Tweenways"—Members' Meeting 3.0
Leamington—35, Warwick Street—Annual Meeting of Members—Speaker, Miss Rogers (of Coventry) 3.0
Maidenhead—Starerton Lodge—Hostess, Mrs. Atherley Jones—Miss G. Cooke on "The Disabilities of Wives and Mothers"—Chair, Mrs. Robie Uniacke 3.30
Oxford—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Price

MARCH 20.
Guildford—Suffrage Office, 1a, Mount Street—Miss Ogilvy (Member of Godalming Town Council) on "The Need for Women on Local Government Bodies" 3.0
Knebworth—Mission Room—Hitchin, Stevenage, and District Council Meeting—Speech and Presentation of Banner by the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lytton 3.30
Port Talbot—Central Schools—Speaker, Miss Foxley, M.A.—Chair, His Worship, the Mayor 8.0
Reigate—St. Mark's Lecture Room—Miss Penrose Philp on "81,000 Poor Law Children"—Chair, the Rev. F. C. Davies 3.30
Ventnor—Town Hall—Mr. H. Baillie Weaver on "The Principle and Practice of Women's Suffrage" 8.0
Wokingham—Town Hall—Miss G. Cooke on "The Disabilities of Wives and Mothers"—Chair, Mrs. Robie Uniacke 8.0

Scotland.

MARCH 13.
Dunfermline—St. Margaret's Hall—Annual Meeting—Speaker, Miss Alice Crompton, M.H.—Chair, Miss Duguid. 8.0
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Mrs. Shaw Maclaren on "What the Woman's Movement Means to Some of Us" 4.30
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Dr. Everett M'Laren, on "Eugenics"—Tea. 4.0

MARCH 16.
Auchterarder—Speaker, the Lady Frances Balfour.
Edinburgh—Newington Unionist Club—Debate opened by Miss Alice Low on "Why Women Want the Vote"—Chair, Councillor Bruce Lindsay 8.30
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Speakers' Class taken by Miss L. Shakespeare 7.30—8.30
Hamilton—Town Hall—Speaker, Miss M. Matters. 8.0
Kilmarnock—Social Study Circle—Subject, "Sweating."

MARCH 17.
Perth—Annual Business Meeting—Chair, Mrs. Scott Murray (President). 8.0
Troon—Unionist Hall—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters—Chair, Mr. A. B. Boyd 8.0

MARCH 18.
Falkirk—Town Hall—Café Chantant—Speaker, Miss M. Matters. 7.0
Galashiels—Masonic Hall—Whist Drive—Speaker, Dr. Elsie Inglis. 8.0

MARCH 19.
Dingwall—Whist Drive and Dance.
Melrose—Corn Exchange—Speaker, Miss M. Matters—Chair, Mrs. Streeker. 8.0
Stranraer—New Town Hall—Speaker, the Lady Frances Balfour—Chair, Mr. Andrew Ballantyne (Chairman of Scottish Federation). 8.0

MARCH 20.
Bridgeton—Open-air Meeting (weather permitting)—Speaker, Miss Stuart Patterson—Chair, Mrs. Toms. 8.0
Duns—Meeting.
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Miss L. Shakespeare on "The Child and the State"—Tea. 4.0

Items of Interest.

St. Anne's, Soho.

In a leaflet giving the Lenten arrangements for this church, we see that the Rev. Dr. Macgowan, whose course of four sermons on "The Work and Witness of Women" will be remembered by many of our readers, is announced to give another course, this time on "The Christian's Ideals, in his Home, his Politics, and as a Social Reformer." We hope that in all these spheres Dr. Macgowan will not fail to call attention to the part which, if the Church is to be true to its highest ideals, women are destined to play in the future. The dates and times are March 22nd, 29th, and April 5th, at the 11 o'clock service.

Miss Hoskyns-Abrahall's Lectures.

We regret that by a misunderstanding the subject of Miss Abrahall's lectures at Crosby Hall was not rightly stated in our last issue. She will deal with the relations of the adult generation with the adolescent, and with the peculiar difficulties of the transition period of life.

Industrial position of Women.

The combined Committees of the National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society are holding a conference on March 28th, at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, to discuss the industrial position of women, and its relation to Women's Suffrage. All Suffrage societies will probably be officially represented; non-delegates, however, will be admitted by ticket (2s. 6d. each), which can be obtained from Miss Esther Roper, 33, Fitzroy Square, W.

Actresses' Franchise League.

An attractive programme has been arranged by the Actresses' Franchise League for the performance at The Arts Centre, 93, Mortimer Street, W., on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 24th. Three one-act plays will be given, entitled "The Suffragette," by Alfred Bucklaw, "Kindly Flames," by H. Vernon Carey, and "Which?" by Evelyn Glover. The caste will include Miss Leach Bateman Hunter, Miss Dorothy Barrington, Mr. J. Benedick Butler, Miss Barbara Everest, Miss Irene McLeod, Mr. Philip Jonge, Miss Lilian Revell, and others.

Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column at a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning. All communications should be addressed to the Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert-st., Adelphi.

A SUFFRAGE JUMBLE SALE will be held in North Kensington, on March 23rd. Old books, boots, clothes, kitchen utensils, &c., will be gratefully received by Mrs. Garrett Jones, 38, Brunswick Gardens, W. Nothing is too old.

A PERFORMANCE OF IBSEN'S "Ghosts," arranged by Mr. J. T. Grein for NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY, at the COURT THEATRE, Sunday evening, April 26th, under the direction of Leon M. Lion. Artistes, Miss Bessie Hatton, and Miss Dorothy Drake, Messrs. Leon Quartermaine, J. Fisher White, Stacy Aumonier. Particulars from Miss Mally, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge.

ETHICAL CHURCH, Queen's-rd., W., March 15th, 11 a.m., Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, "The Mystery of Woman." 7 p.m. Mr. William Poel, "Shakespeare's Hamlet."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD.—March 18th, 3.30 to 6 p.m. "Modern Rescue Work in Relation to the Women's Movement." Mrs. Nott-Bower, P.L.G. Club Subscription, £1 1s.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Tuesday, March 17th, at 3 p.m. New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. "Women's Work and Wages, Mrs. Hubback, Mrs. R. Cavendish Bentinck. Discussion.

LECTURES (Illustrated by Lantern Slides).—"Biology in Relation to Education," by Miss Hoskyns-Abrahall, M.A., Crosby Hall, Chelsea, S.W., March 13th, 17th, and 20th, 5.30 p.m. Lecture I., "Persona—The Mask"; Lecture II., "Psyche—The Soul"; Lecture III., "Mors Janua Vitæ." Reserved seats, £1 1s. the course; unreserved seats, 10s. 6d. the course; teachers, 5s. the course. All tickets transferable. For Tickets apply to Herbert Flack, Stationer, 315, King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.

SHROPSHIRE SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (N.U.W.S.S.), Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Wellington, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Whitchurch. Sweated Industries Exhibition, Music Hall, Shrewsbury, March 24th and 25th, 2.30 to 10 p.m. Chair, Mrs. Harley. Openers, Mrs. Kempthorne and Mrs. Rowland Hunt. Speakers Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. Cameron Grant, Mr. Mallon, Mrs. Ring, and Miss Knight. Admission: Afternoon, 1s.; 4 p.m. 6d.; 7.30 p.m. free.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

GREAT WOMEN'S TRADES PROCESSION.—The London Society has for sale immediately, at nominal price, some beautiful Trade Emblems specially designed for above by Miss Lowndes and others.—To view apply Miss Strachey, 58, Victoria-st., S.W.

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I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district, and to receive their organ "The Common Cause."

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To the Secretary _____ **Society for Women's Suffrage.**

Or the Secretary, **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.**

* Please cross out if not required.

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